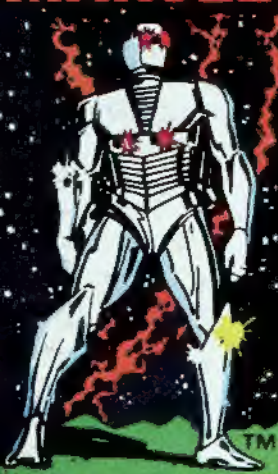


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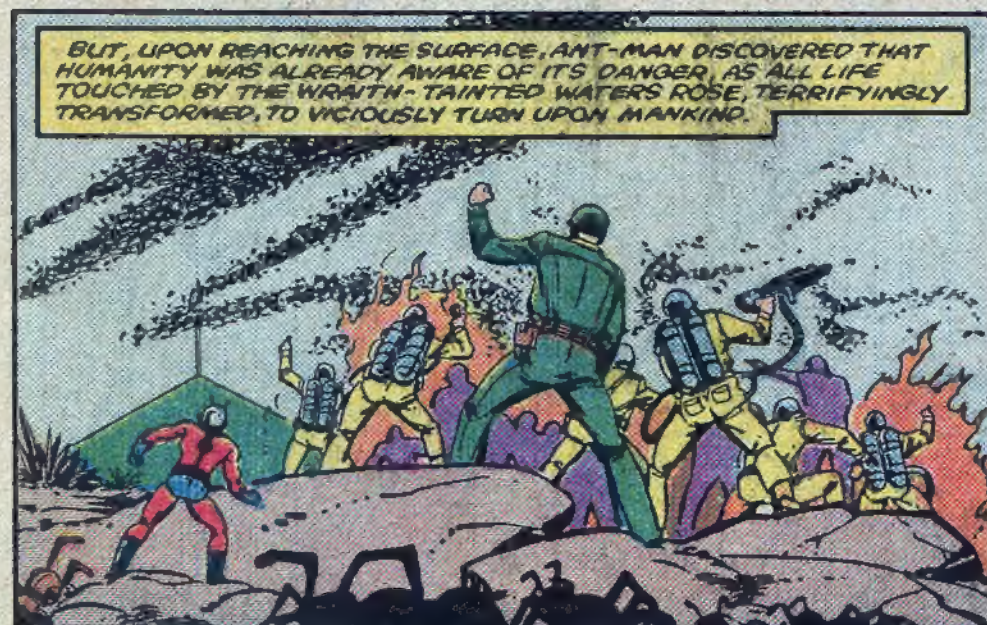
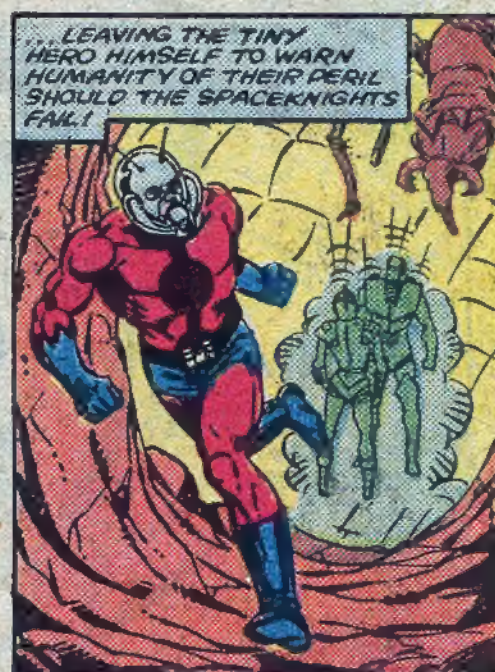
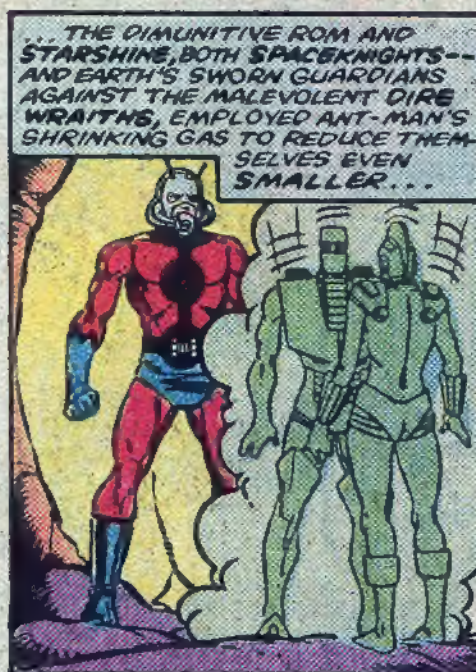
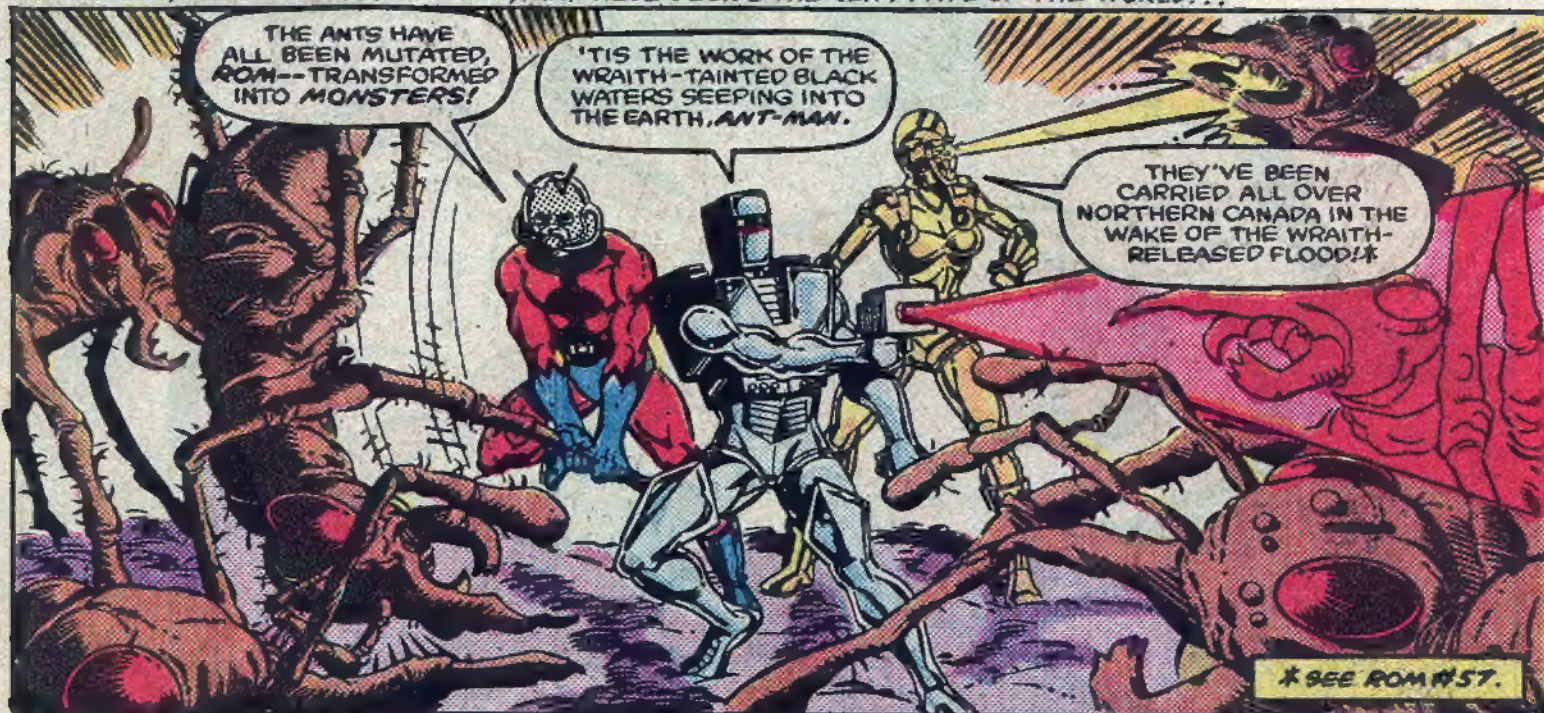


SOON TO BE A MAJOR MARVEL COMIC



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A BATTLE, FOUGHT IN AN ANT HILL, MAY WELL DECIDE THE VERY FATE OF THE WORLD...



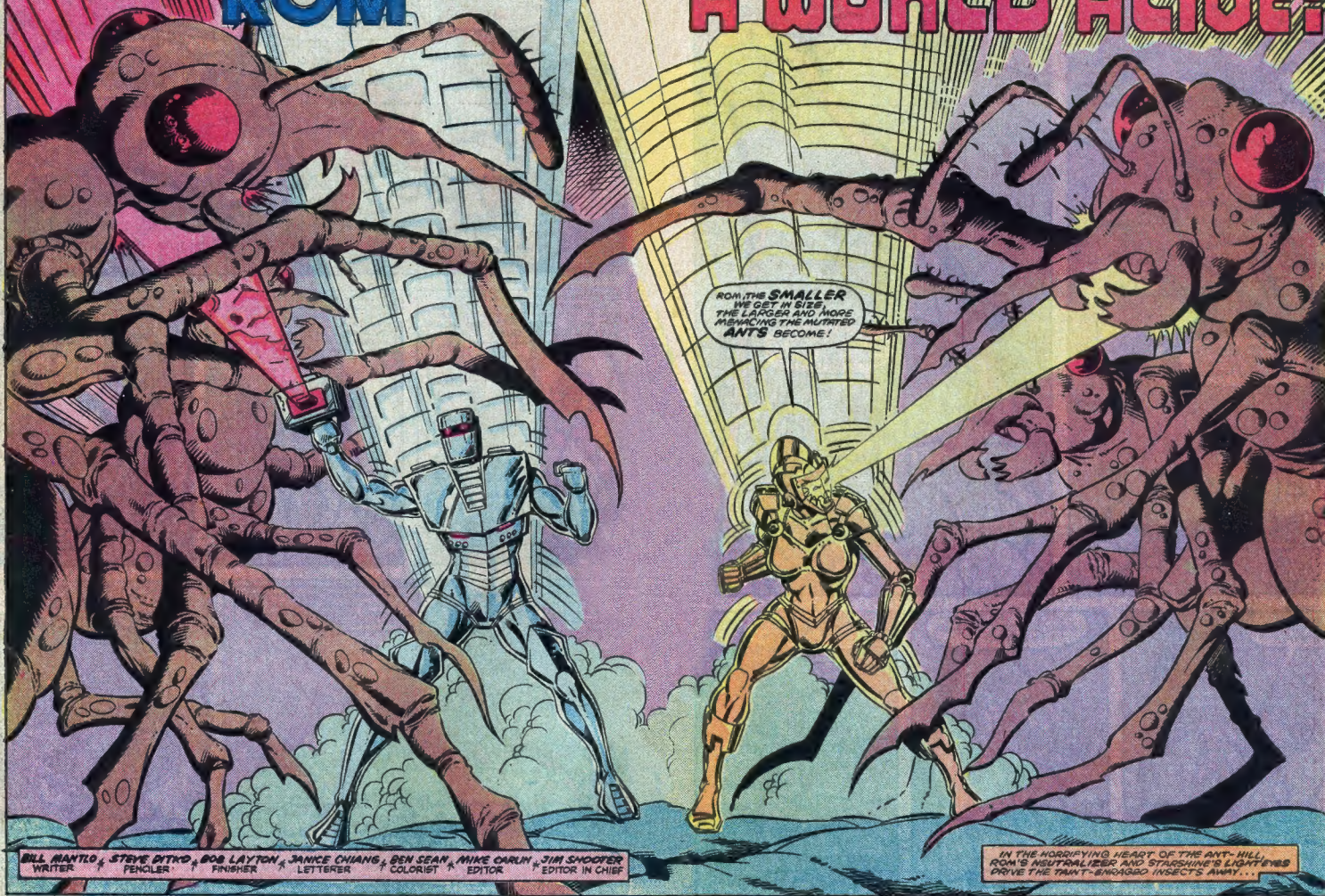
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ROM

GREATEST OF THE
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ROM, THE SMALLER
WE GET IN SIZE,
THE LARGER AND MORE
MENACING THE MUTATED
ANTS BECOME!

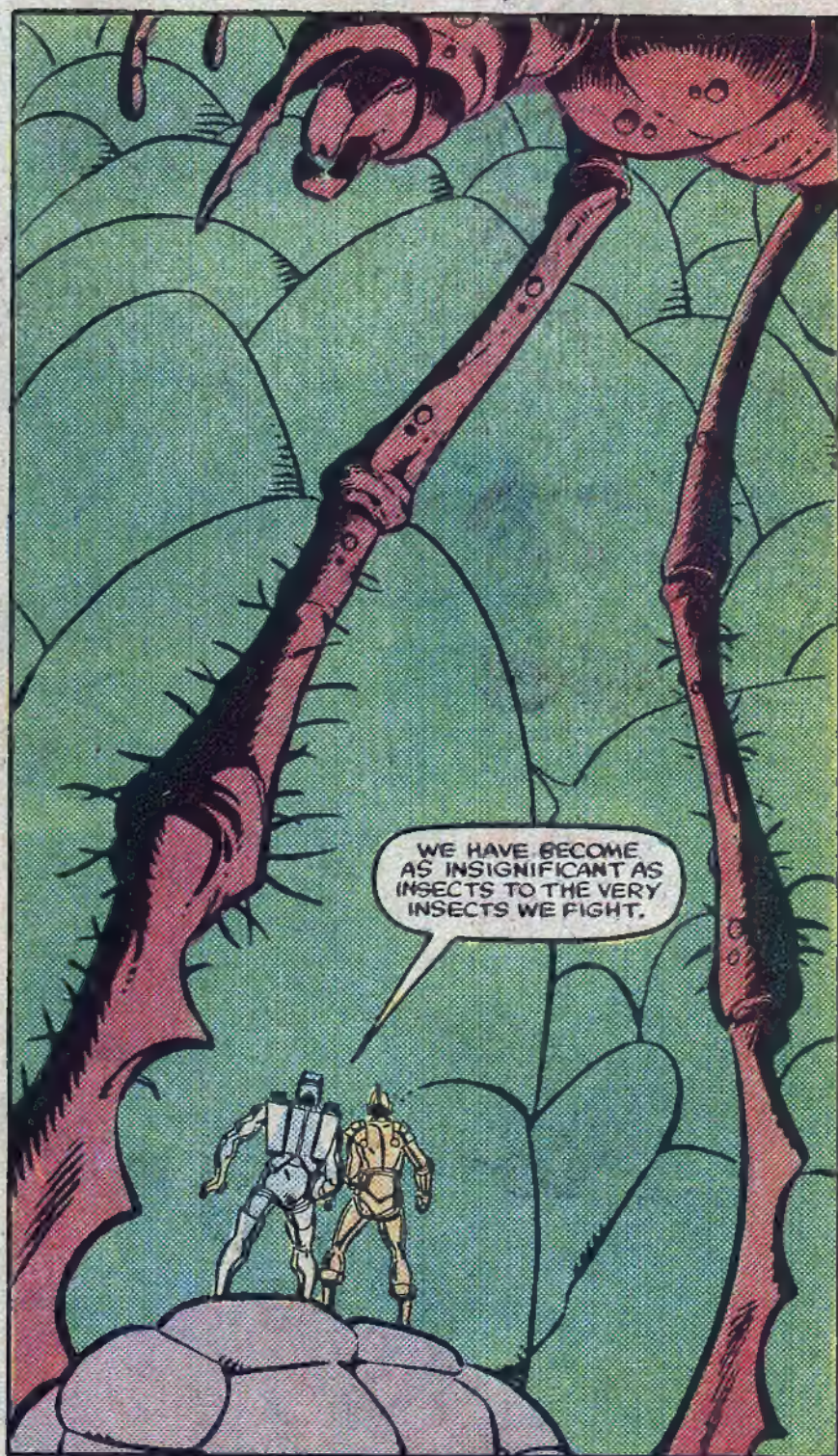
BILL MANTLO • STEVE DITKO • BOB LAYTON • JANICE CHIANG • BEN SEAN • MIKE CARLIN • JIM SHOOFER
WRITER PENCILER FINISHER LETTERER COLORIST EDITOR EDITOR IN CHIEF

IN THE HORRIFYING HEART OF THE ANT-HILL,
ROM'S NEUTRALIZER AND STARSHINE'S LIGHT-FLIES
DRIVE THE TAUNT-ENRAGED INSECTS AWAY...

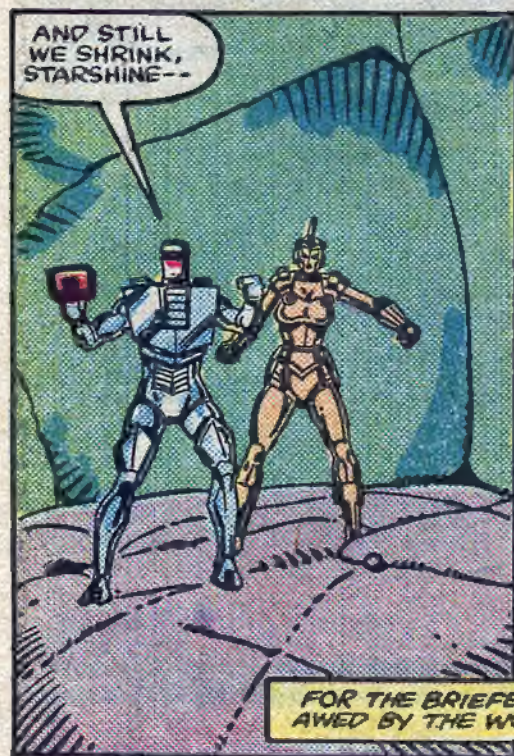
UNTIL THERE IS NO FURTHER NEED FOR SUCH DEFENSIVE TACTICS.



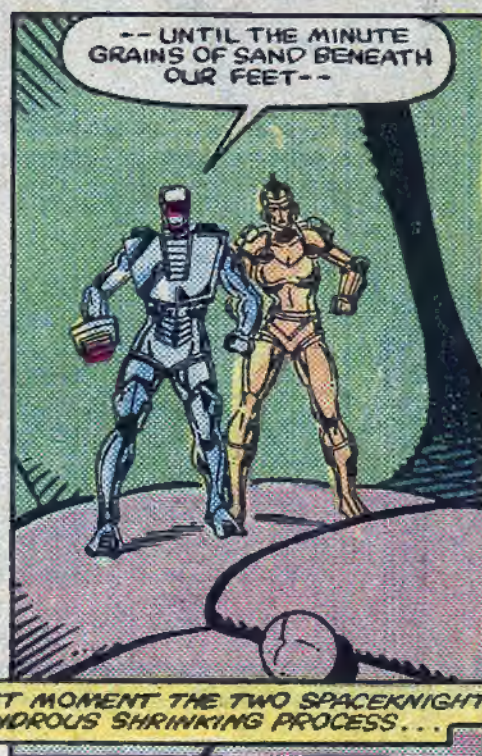
WE HAVE GROWN SO SMALL THAT WE ARE NOW BENEATH THE ANTS' NOTICE.



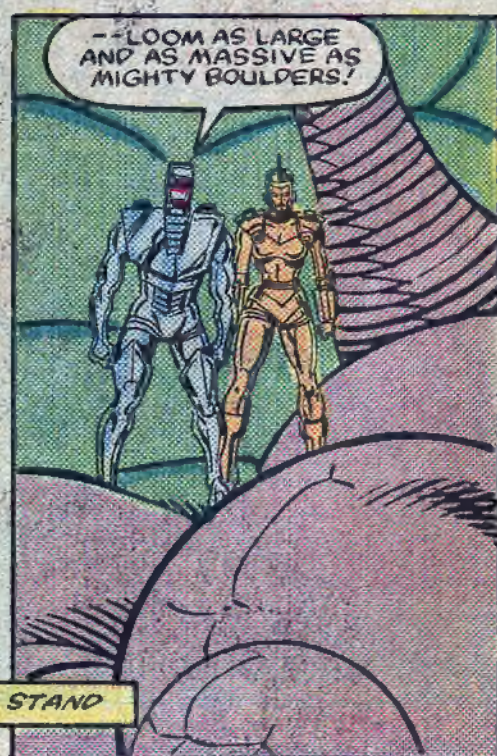
WE HAVE BECOME AS INSIGNIFICANT AS INSECTS TO THE VERY INSECTS WE FIGHT.



AND STILL WE SHRINK, STARSHINE--



-- UNTIL THE MINUTE GRAINS OF SAND BENEATH OUR FEET--



-- LOOM AS LARGE AND AS MASSIVE AS MIGHTY BOULDERS!

FOR THE BRIEFEST MOMENT THE TWO SPACEKNIGHTS STAND AWED BY THE WONDROUS SHRINKING PROCESS...

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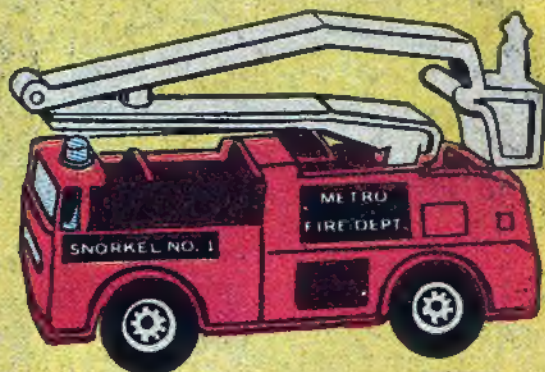
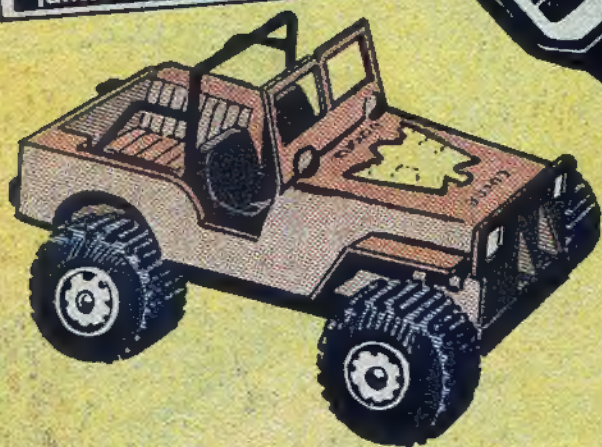
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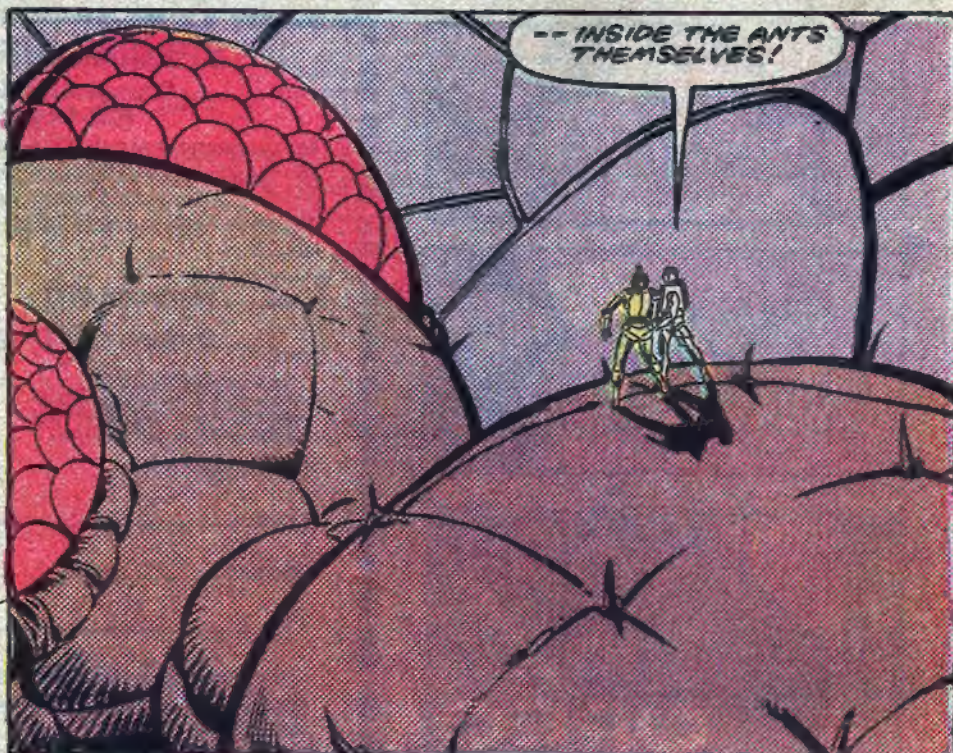
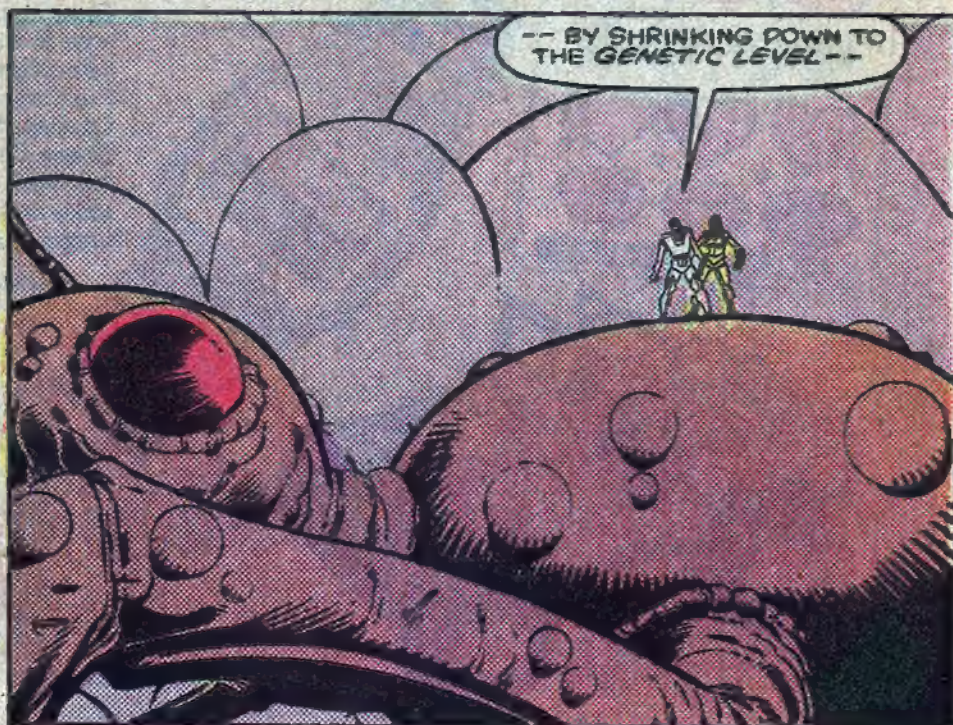
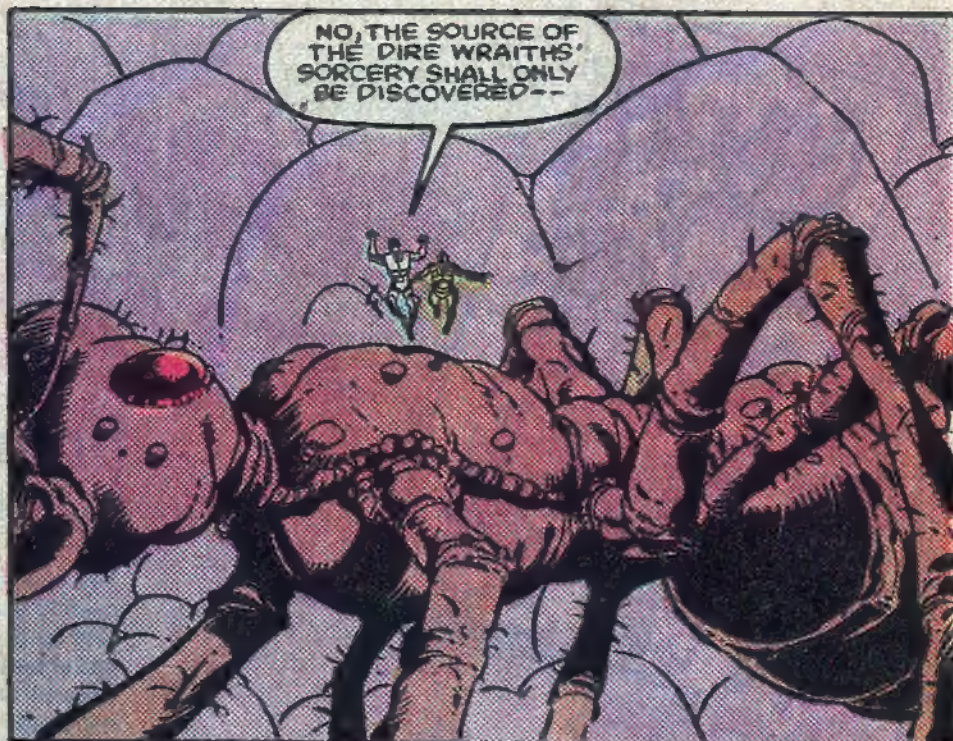
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by RHONDI VILOTT

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TO CHOOSE A PATHWAY TO THE
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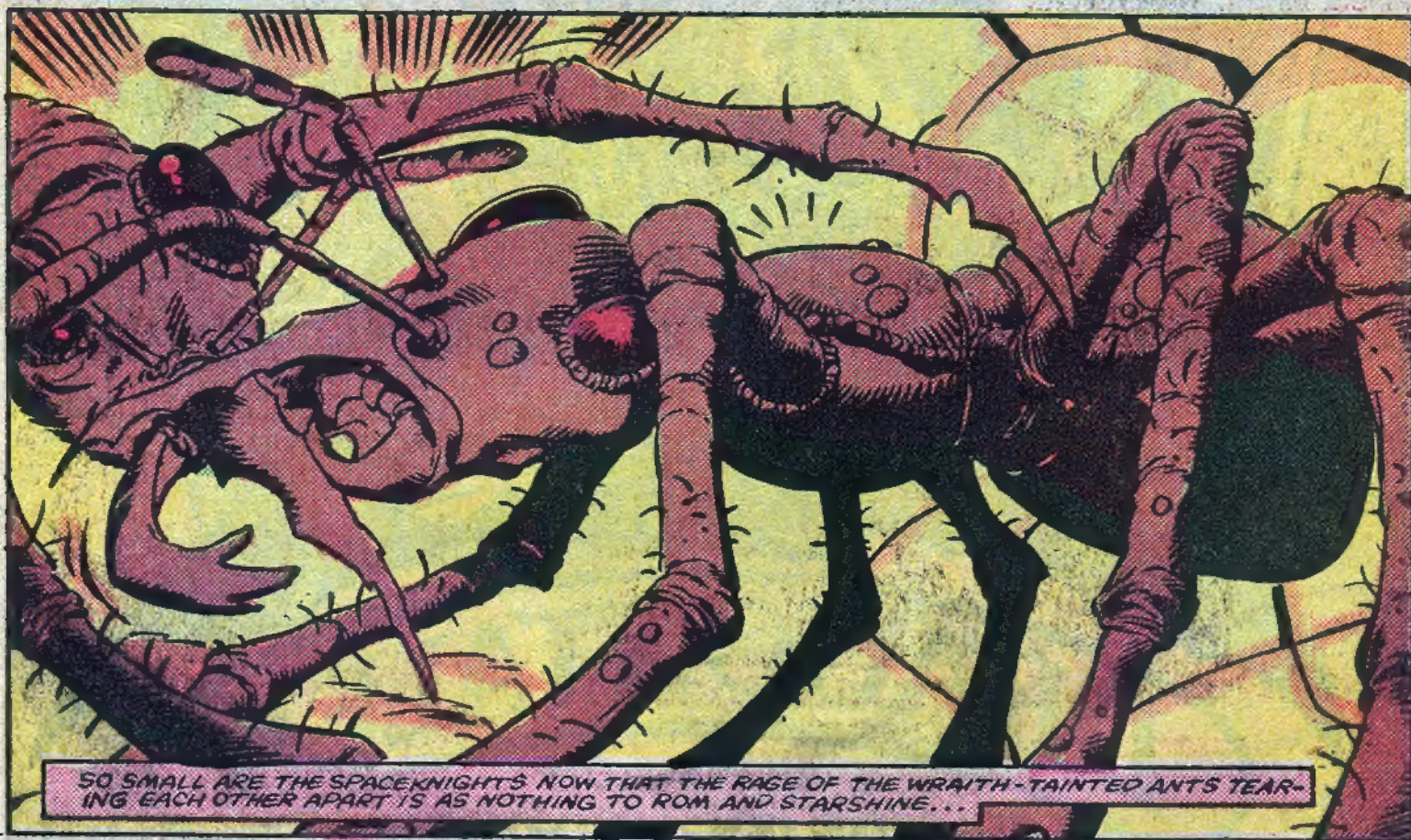
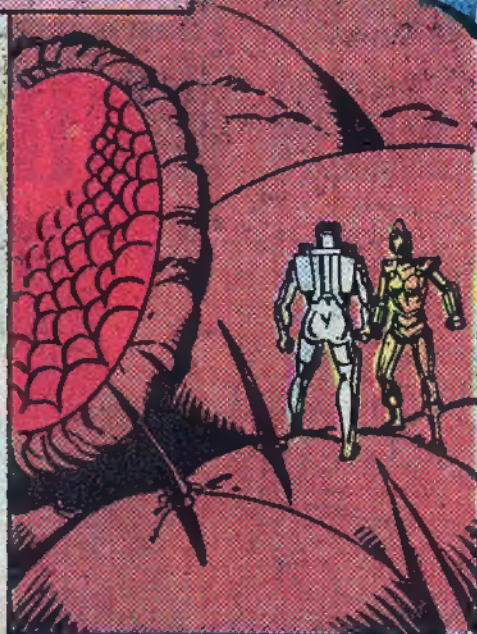
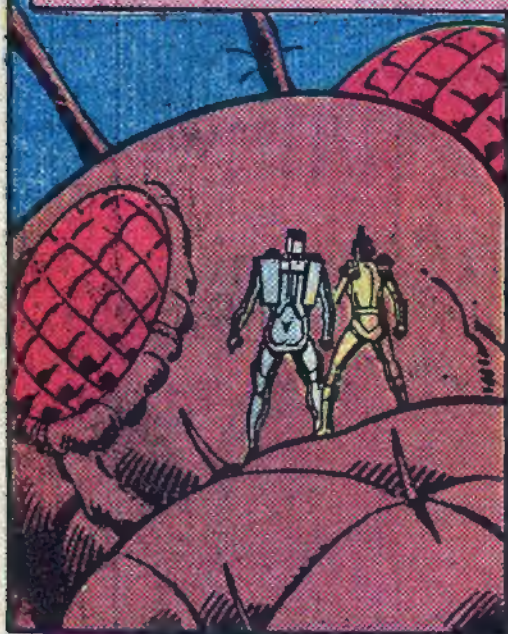
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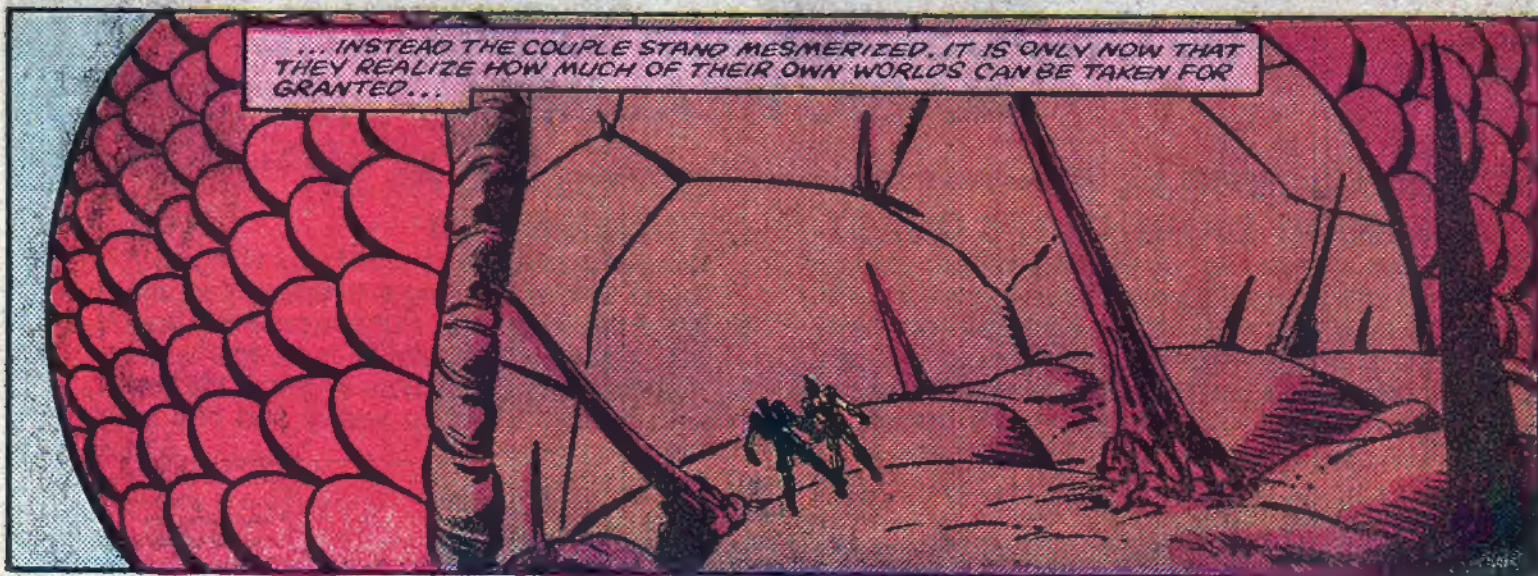
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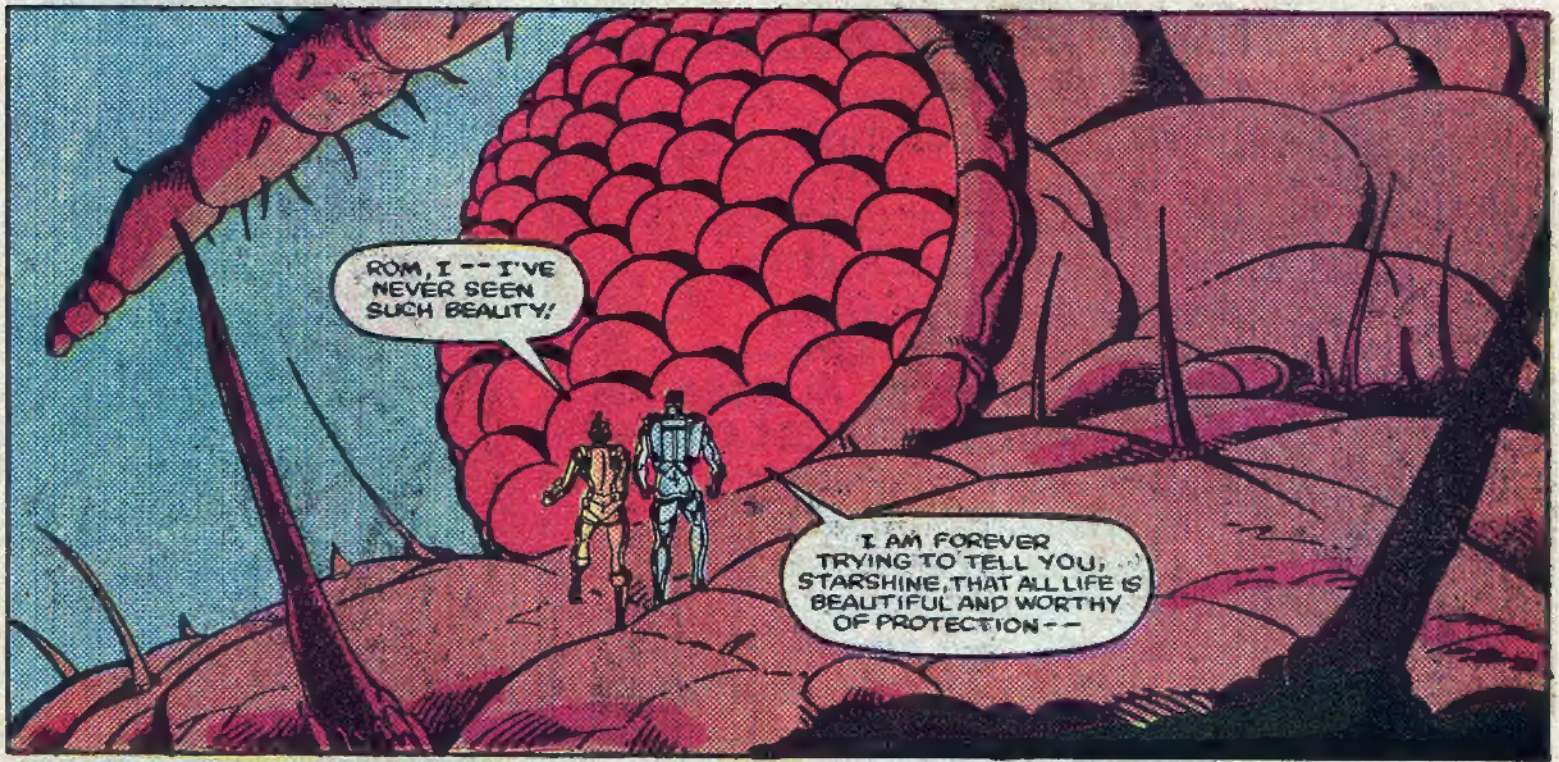
IMAGINE YOURSELF STANDING UPON A LIVING CREATURE. IMAGINE THAT YOU ARE GROWING SO SMALL-- SO SWIFTLY-- THAT THE CARAPACE OF THE CREATURE BECOMES A LIVING LANDSCAPE BENEATH YOUR FEET. IMAGINE A WORLD WHERE YOU APPEAR AS NO MORE THAN A DUST-MOTE TO THE COMPOUND EYE OF A MOUNTAINOUS, MILE-HIGH INSECT.



SO SMALL ARE THE SPACEKNIGHTS NOW THAT THE RAGE OF THE WRAITH-TAINTED ANTS TEARING EACH OTHER APART IS AS NOTHING TO ROM AND STARSHINE...



... INSTEAD THE COUPLE STAND MESMERIZED. IT IS ONLY NOW THAT THEY REALIZE HOW MUCH OF THEIR OWN WORLDS CAN BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED...



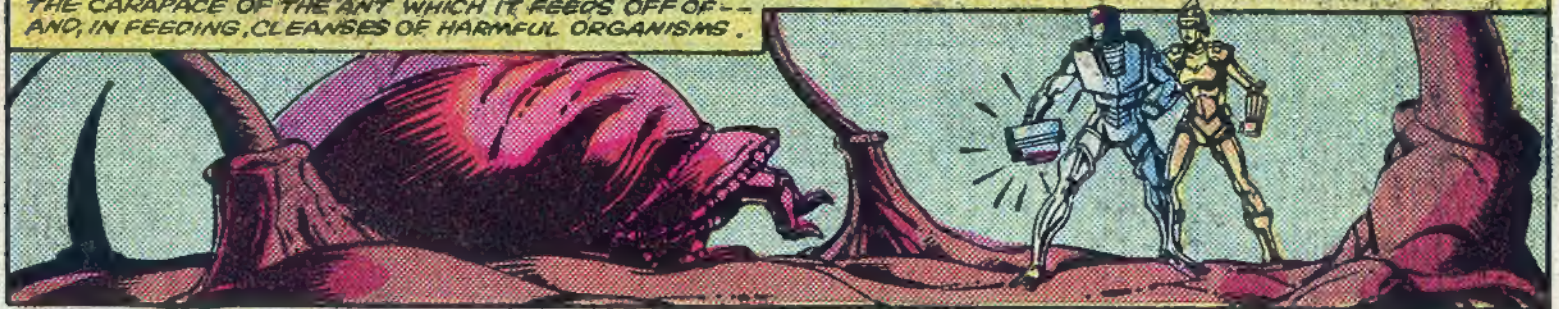
ROM, I -- I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH BEAUTY!

I AM FOREVER TRYING TO TELL YOU, STARSHINE, THAT ALL LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL AND WORTHY OF PROTECTION --

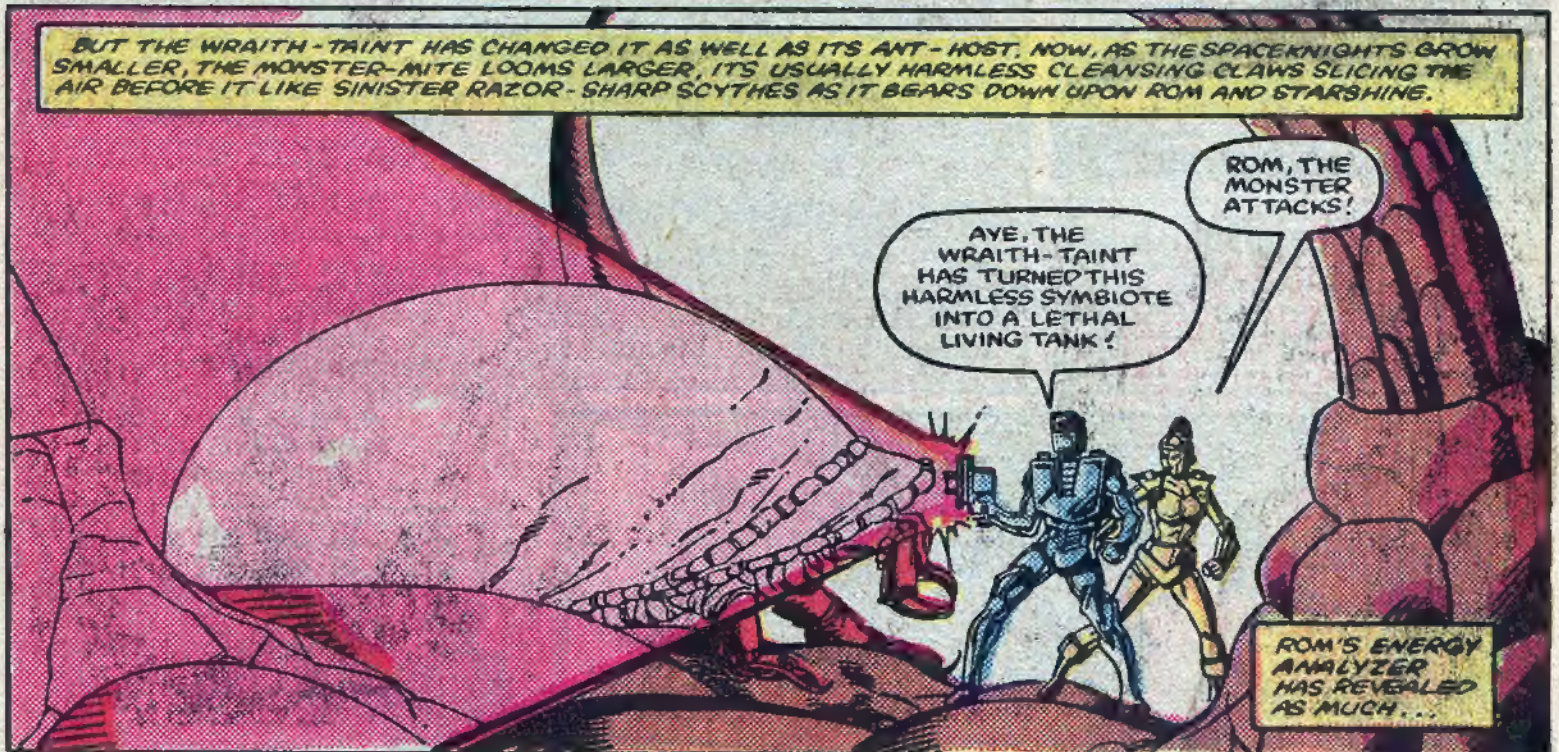


-- EVEN THOUGH SOME OF IT MAY PROVE DEADLY AND DANGEROUS!

THE CREATURE WAS ONCE NO MORE THAN A MITE, A MICROSCOPIC LIFEFORM SYMBIOTICALLY EXISTING UPON THE CARAPACE OF THE ANT WHICH IT FEEDS OFF OF -- AND, IN FEEDING, CLEANSSES OF HARMFUL ORGANISMS.



BUT THE WRAITH-TAINT HAS CHANGED IT AS WELL AS ITS ANT-HOST. NOW, AS THE SPACEKNIGHTS GROW SMALLER, THE MONSTER-MITE LOOMS LARGER, ITS USUALLY HARMLESS CLEANSING CLAWS SLICING THE AIR BEFORE IT LIKE SINISTER RAZOR-SHARP SCYTHES AS IT BEARS DOWN UPON ROM AND STARSHINE.



ROM, THE MONSTER ATTACKS!

AYE, THE WRAITH-TAINT HAS TURNED THIS HARMLESS SYMBIOTE INTO A LETHAL LIVING TANK!

ROM'S ENERGY ANALYZER HAS REVEALED AS MUCH...

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... BUT THE ANALYZER IS MERELY A PASSIVE DETECTION DEVICE, POWERLESS TO FEND OFF THE LIVING ENGINE OF DESTRUCTION NOW MOVING IN ON THE SPACEKNIGHTS.

I WILL NOT HARM THE CREATURE, FOR IT MEANT NO HARM UNTIL THE WRAITH-TAINT CORRUPTED IT.

YOUR REGRETS WON'T STOP ITS CHARGE, ROM!

LIKE IT OR NOT, IT IS A WRAITH-CREATURE NOW--

-- WHICH WE MUST DESTROY BEFORE IT DESTROYS US!

RELUCTANTLY, ROM MATERIALIZES HIS NEUTRALIZER, THE GREATEST WEAPON EVER FORGED ON FAR-OFF GALADOR, ROM'S HOMEWORLD...

... AND TOGETHER, WITH THE POWER OF THE LIVING LIGHT OF STARSHINE'S EYEBEAMS, THEY ATTACK THE MITE.

IN ROM'S CYBORG HEART, THE KILLING OF THIS CREATURE INSPIRES ONLY SADNESS.

IT MEANT NO HARM.

IT WAS FORCED BY THE WRAITH WAR BEING WAGED UPON EARTH TO BECOME SOMETHING OTHER THAN IT WAS...

... EVEN AS BRANDY CLARK, THE EARTHWOMAN ROM HAD COME TO LOVE, WAS DRIVEN TO SORCEROUSLY ASSUME THE SPACEKNIGHT ARMOR OF HER PREDECESSOR, STARSHINE I, AND BECOME A COLD AND CRUEL CYBORG KILLING MACHINE.

WE'VE DONE IT, ROM! OUR COMBINED MIGHT HAS KILLED THE CREATURE DESPITE THE FACT THAT WE'VE SHRUNK DOWN TO A FRACTION OF ITS SIZE!

YES... AND MAY THE GODS OF GALADOR HAVE MERCY UPON OUR SOULS.

PROBOSCI FLAILING, THE MONSTROUS MITE EMITS AN INSECT SCREAM OF PAIN AND COLLAPSES... ITS HUGE MASS CRASHING DIRECTLY DOWN UPON THE SHRINKING SPACEKNIGHTS!

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MEANWHILE, ON THE FLOOD-SOAKED SURFACE OF THE CANADIAN SOIL ABOVE, GENERAL MERRIWETHER LOCKLIN AND HIS WRAITH-HUNTER RANGERS ARE FINDING THAT THERE IS LITTLE THEY CAN DO AGAINST SORCEROUSLY-TRANSFORMED SWARMS OF INSECTS...



RICK JONES!
YOU USED TO BE
AN AVENGER!
HAVEN'T YOU GOT
ANY IDEAS?!

NONE THAT'D
HOLD OFF
BLOOD-CRAZED
BUGS, GENERAL!

FLAME-THROWERS INCINERATE
THE INSECT ATTACKERS BY THE
THOUSANDS, BUT STILL THEY COME,
SWARMING UP OUT OF THE EARTH
TO OVERWHELM HUMANITY.

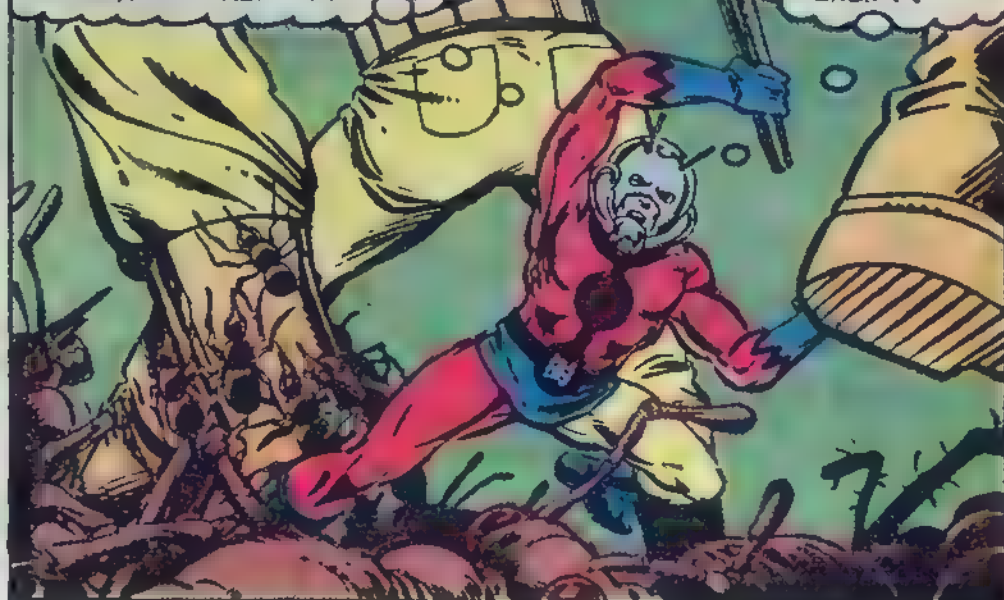
THE
BUGS ARE ALL
OVER US, AND
THERE'S NOTHING
WE CAN DO!



LOOKS LIKE
I EMERGED FROM
THE ANT-HILL
JUST IN TIME!

THE RANGERS ARE EXHAUSTED,
WORN DOWN FROM TRYING TO
FIGHT AN ENEMY THEY CAN BARELY
SEE--YET ONE WHOSE STING AND
BITE DRIVES THEM MAD!

THERE'S ONLY
ONE WAY TO
FIGHT THIS KIND
OF INSECT
ENEMY!



TRANSFORMED INTO ENERGY
IMPULSES, ANT-MAN'S THOUGHTS
ARE TRANSMITTED FORTH FROM
THE ANTENNAE OF HIS CYBER-
NETIC HELMET...

I'VE NEVER
TRIED TO BEAM A DISTRESS
CALL OVER SO GREAT A DISTANCE!



WILL THOSE I'M
APPEALING TO FOR
HELP HEAR?!

THE SKY DARKENS, AND HOPE
DIES IN THE SOLDIERS' SOULS...

MORE BUGS HEADED
OUR WAY, GENERAL!
MILLIONS OF 'EM!



LORD
HELP US! WE
HAVEN'T A
PRAYER!

BUT, WERE THE WRAITH-HUNTER RANGERS NOT SO TERRIFIED, THEY MIGHT SUBJECT THESE NEWCOMERS TO STRICTER SCRUTINY...

...AND DISCOVER THAT THESE ANTS, SUMMONED FROM MILES DISTANT, HAD BEEN HORRIBLY TRANSFORMED!

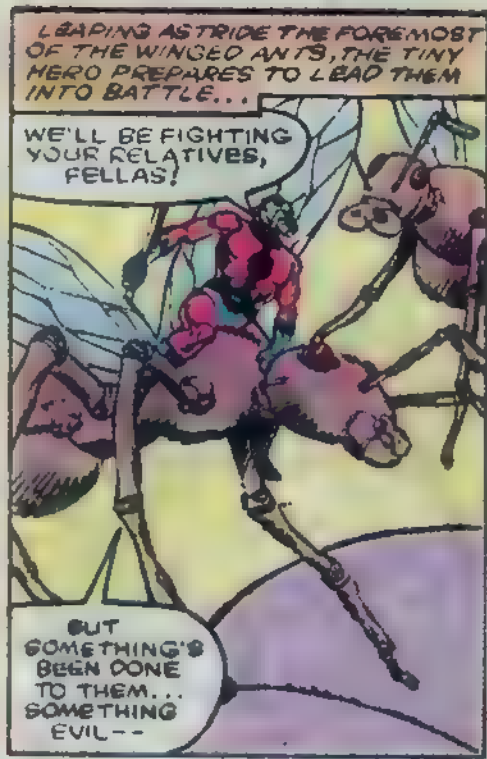
MY FRIENDS YOU HEARD ME! YOU CAME!



LEAPING ASTRIDE THE FOREMOST OF THE WINGED ANTS, THE TINY HERO PREPARES TO LEAD THEM INTO BATTLE...

WE'LL BE FIGHTING YOUR RELATIVES, FELLAS!

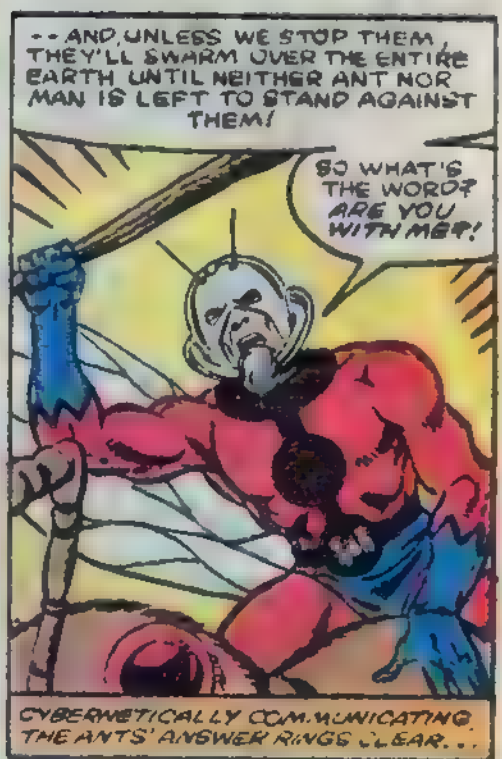
BUT SOMETHING'S BEEN DONE TO THEM... SOMETHING EVIL--



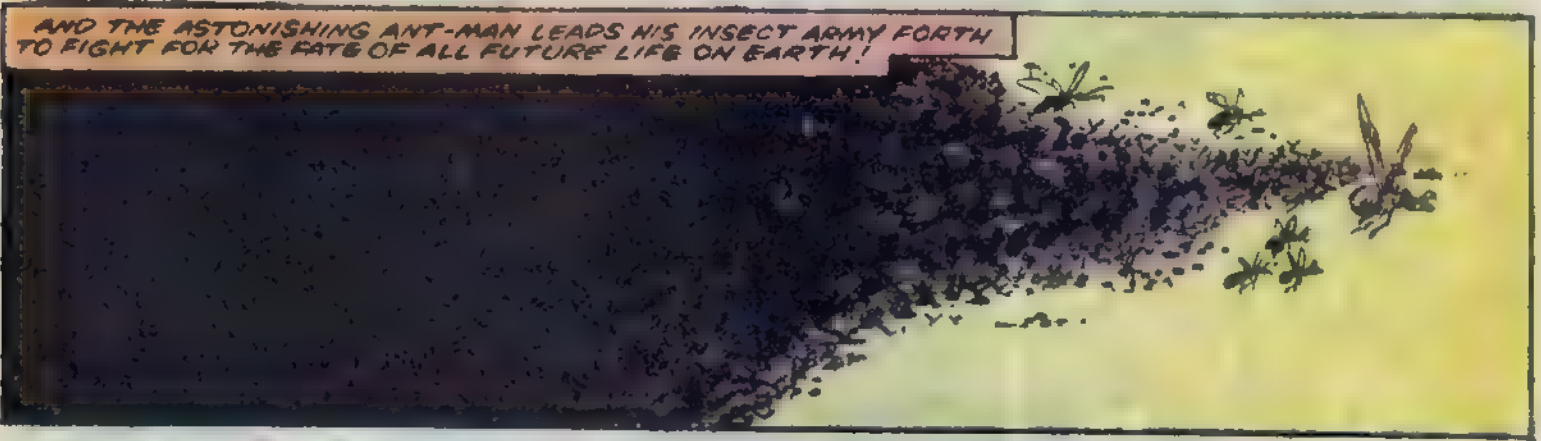
-- AND, UNLESS WE STOP THEM, THEY'LL SWARM OVER THE ENTIRE EARTH UNTIL NEITHER ANT NOR MAN IS LEFT TO STAND AGAINST THEM!

SO WHAT'S THE WORD? ARE YOU WITH ME?

CYBERNETICALLY COMMUNICATING THE ANTS' ANSWER RINGS CLEAR...

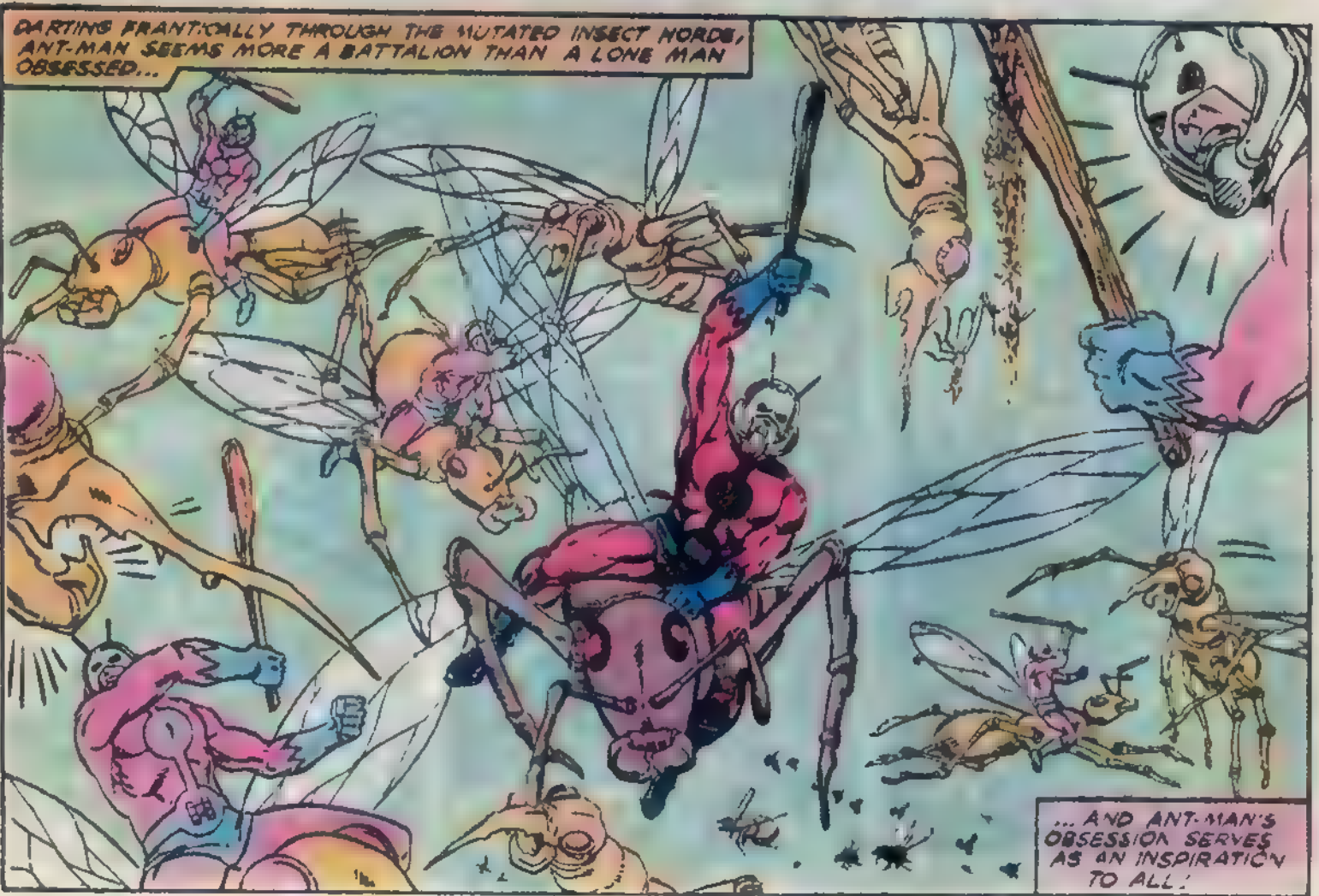


AND THE ASTONISHING ANT-MAN LEADS HIS INSECT ARMY FORTH TO FIGHT FOR THE FATE OF ALL FUTURE LIFE ON EARTH!

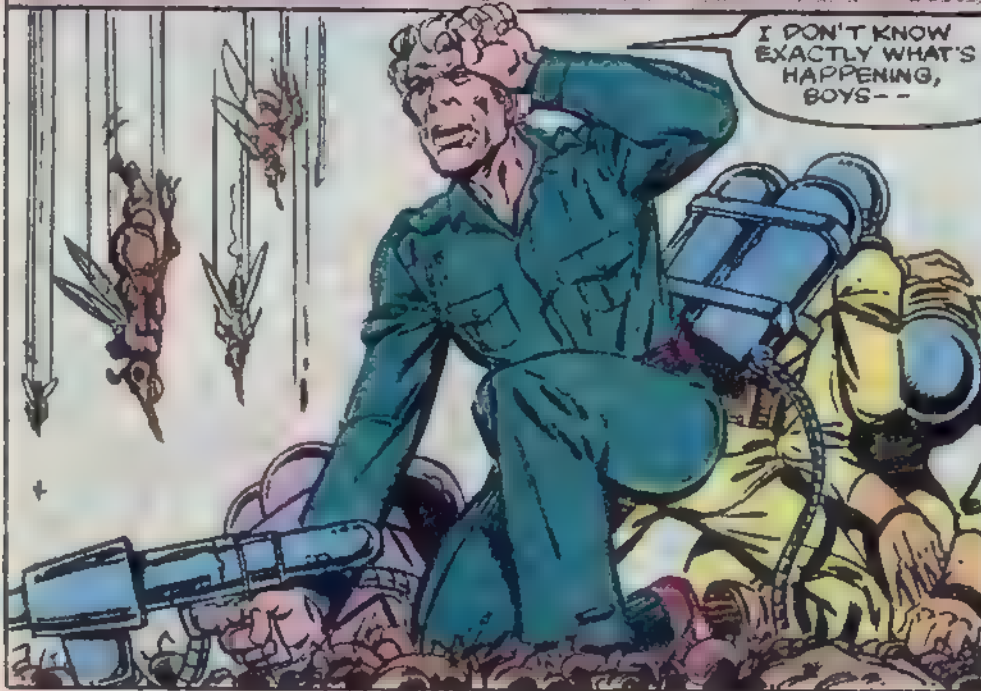


DARTING FRANTICALLY THROUGH THE MUTATED INSECT HORDE, ANT-MAN SEEMS MORE A BATTALION THAN A LONE MAN OBSESSED...

... AND ANT-MAN'S OBSESSION SERVES AS AN INSPIRATION TO ALL!



THE SUDDEN ASSAULT OF THE NON-TRANSFORMED ANTS GIVES THE WRAITH-HUNTER RANGERS THE RESPIRE THEY SO DESPERATELY NEED...

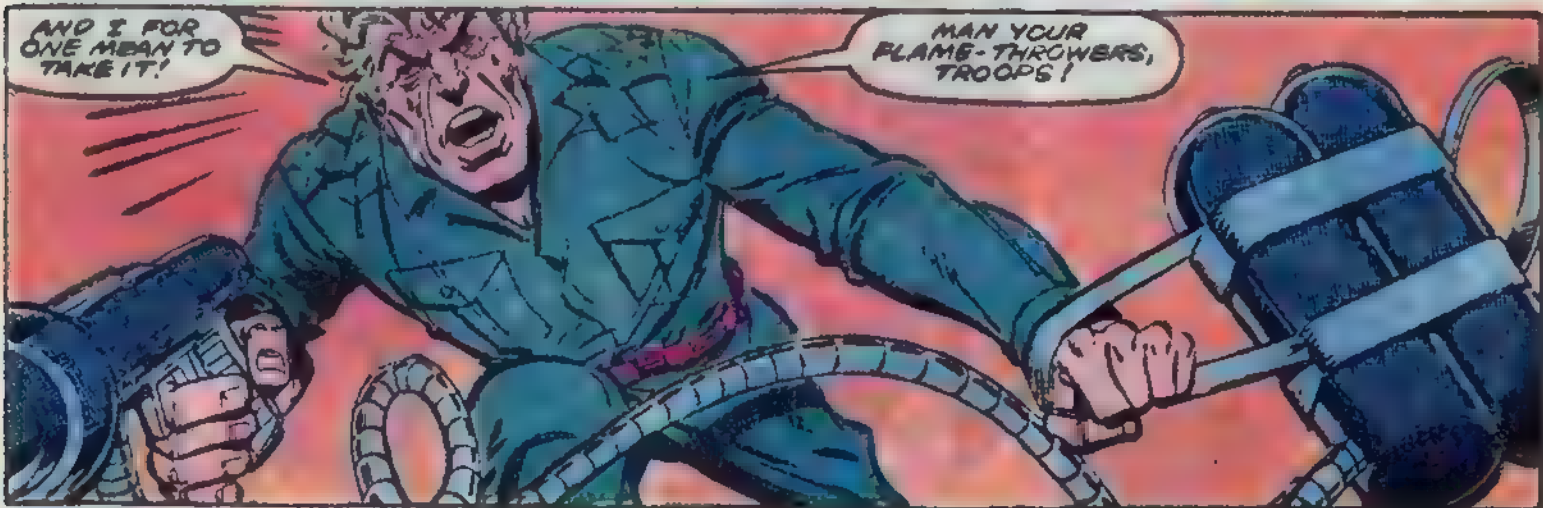


I DON'T KNOW EXACTLY WHAT'S HAPPENING, BOYS--

-- BUT IT LOOKS LIKE SOMEBODY'S GIVEN US A SECOND CHANCE!



AND I FOR ONE MEAN TO TAKE IT!



MAN YOUR FLAME-THROWERS, TROOPS!



WE'RE NOT GIVING UP OUR PLANET-- NOT WITHOUT ONE HECK OF A FIGHT!

FOLLOWING THEIR COMMANDER'S EXAMPLE, THE RANGERS RISE AND LEAP BACK INTO THE FRAY...

... AND SOON THE VICTIMS MAKE THEMSELVES THE VICTORS UPON THIS BLOODY AND BURN-BLACKENED BATTLEFIELD...

WE'VE WON, BUT AT WHAT COST TO BOTH ANTS AND MEN?!

PERMISSION TO BURY OUR DEAD, GENERAL?

DENIED! THE DANGER'S NOT OVER. THE WRAITH-TAINT'S SPREAD WHEREVER THE FLOOD-WATERS CARRIED IT!

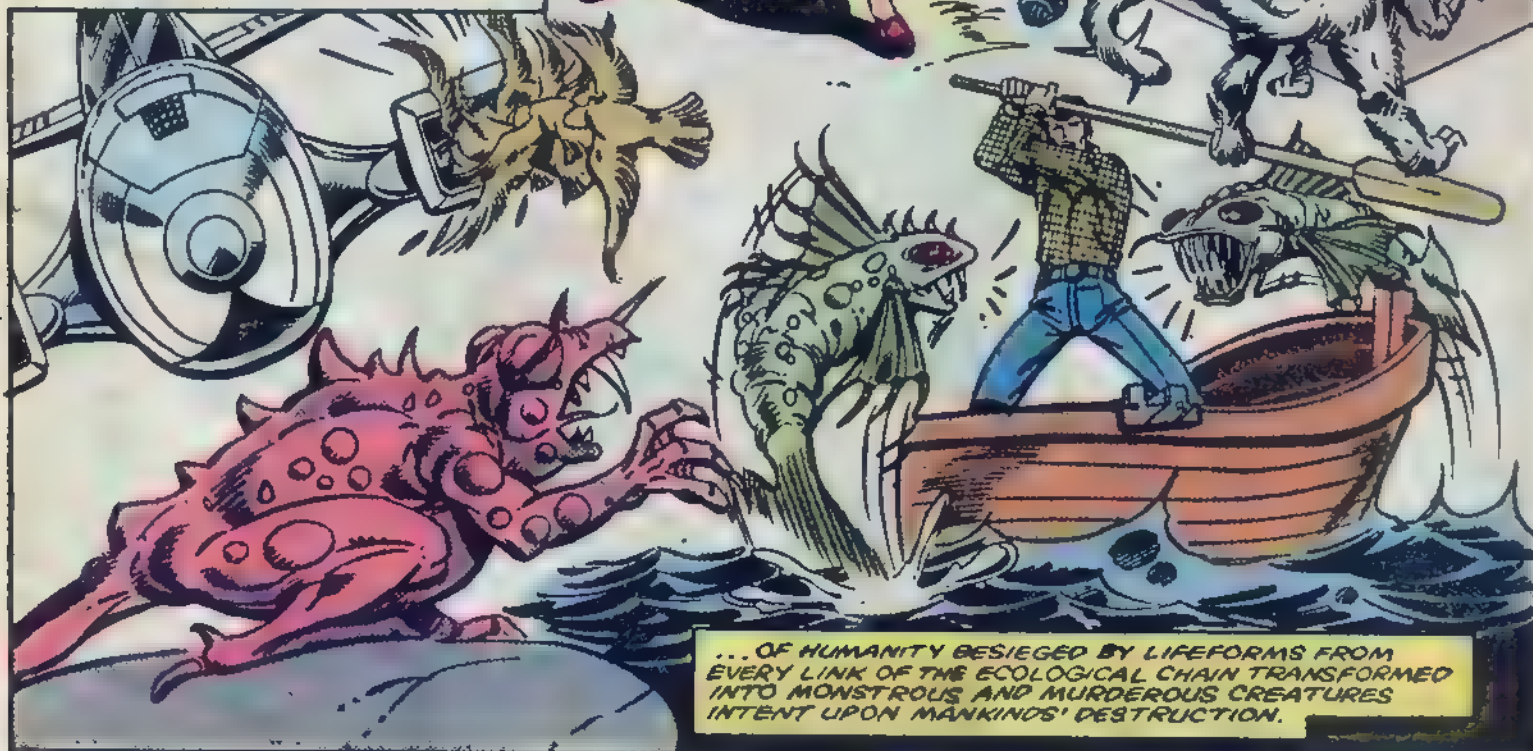
WE'VE GOT TO DETERMINE ITS EXTENT!

DESPITE THE BATTLE RAGING ALL ABOUT HIM AND THE PAIN FROM THE CANCER THAT IS KILLING HIM, RICK JONES HAS FOUGHT THROUGH TO THE COMMUNICATIONS AREA TO TRY AND DETERMINE JUST THAT...

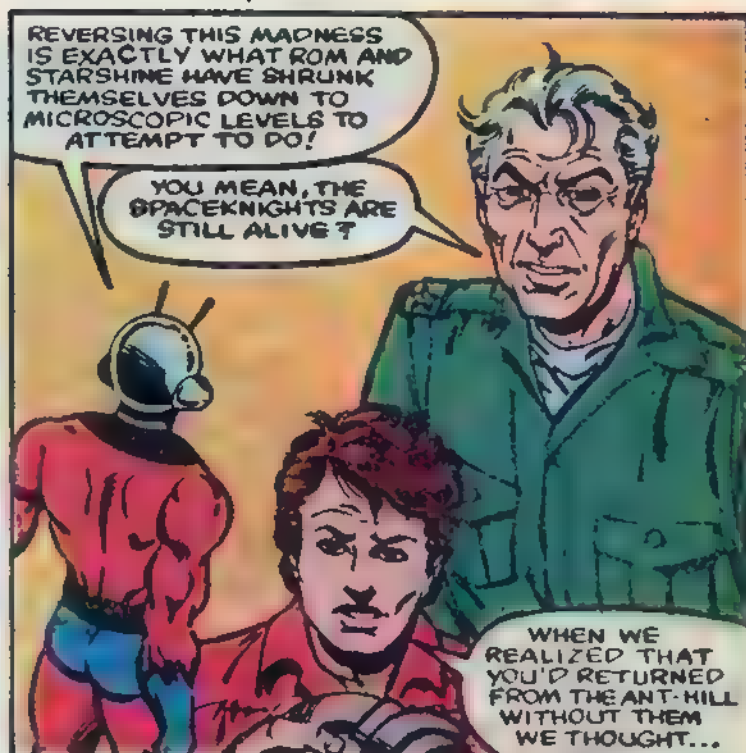
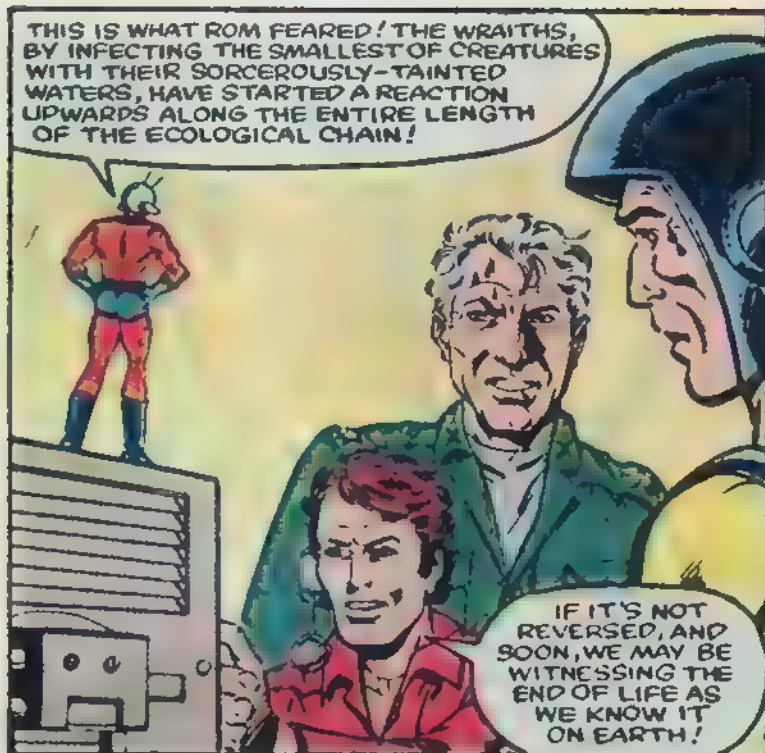
THE OLD TEEN BRIGADE NEVER HAD EQUIPMENT LIKE THIS!

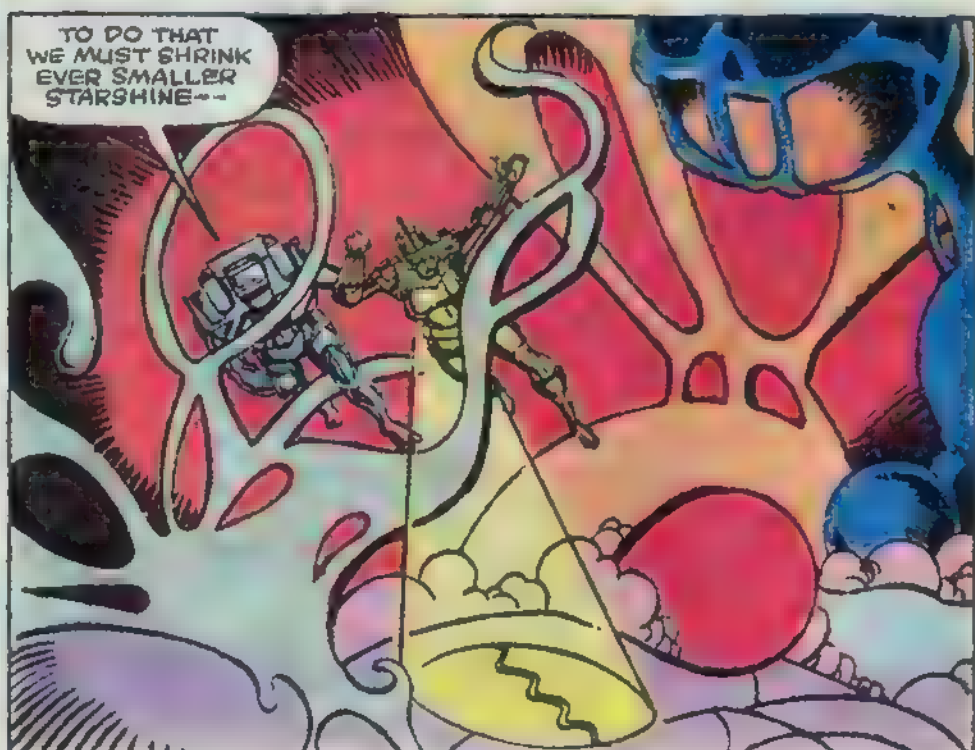
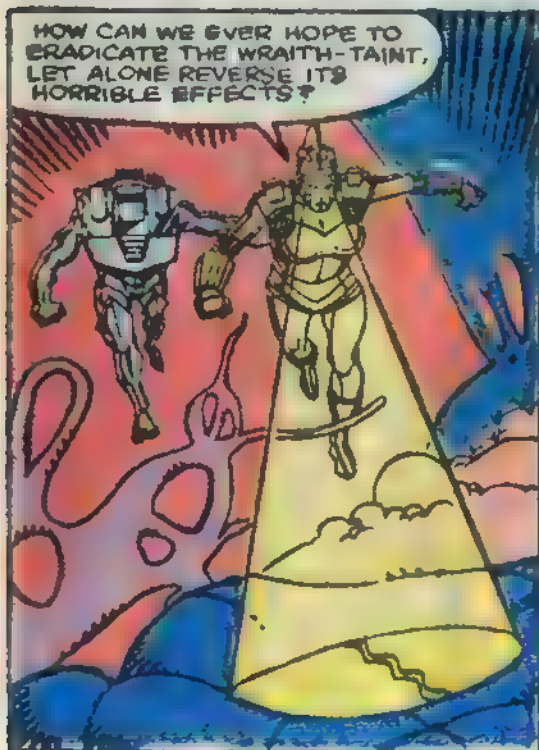
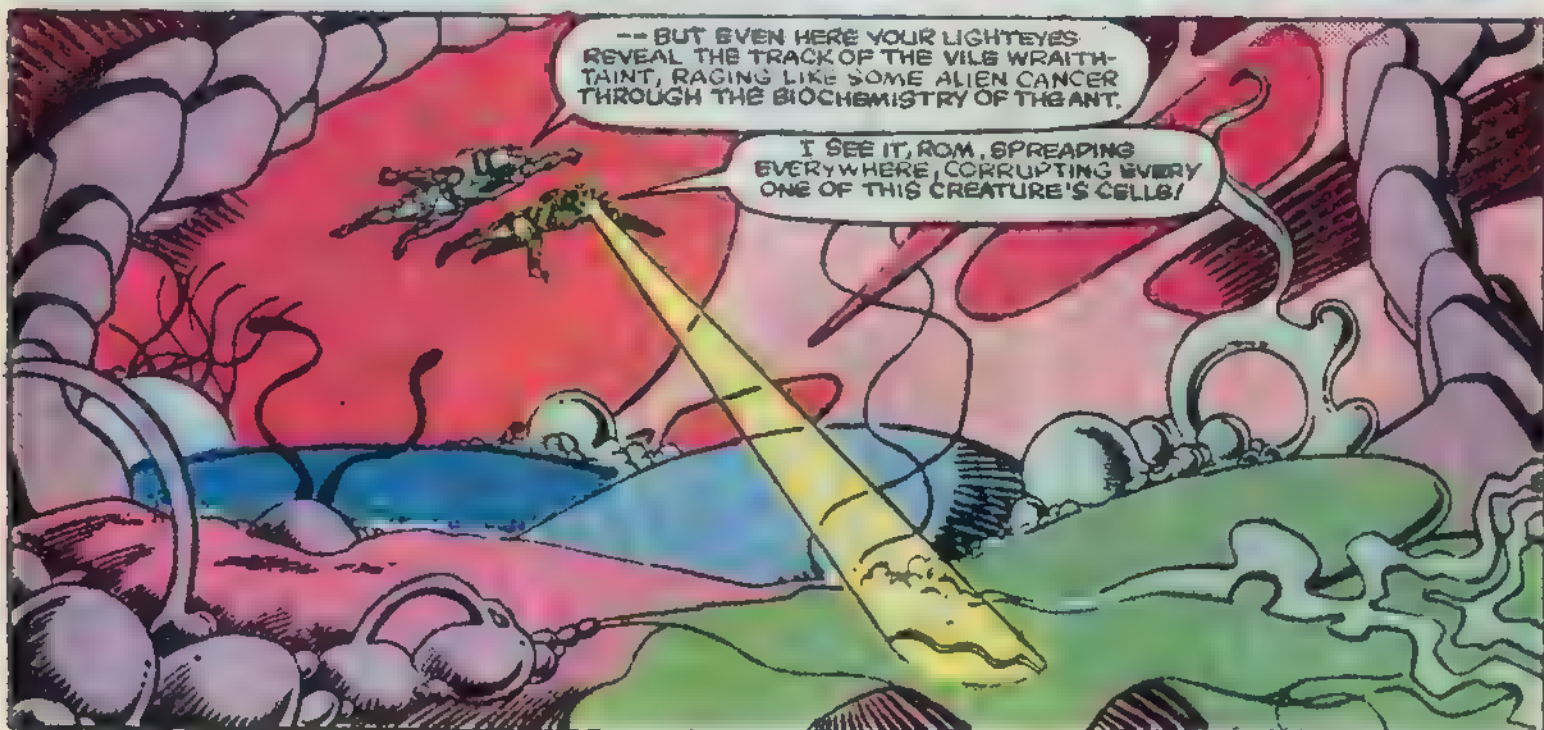
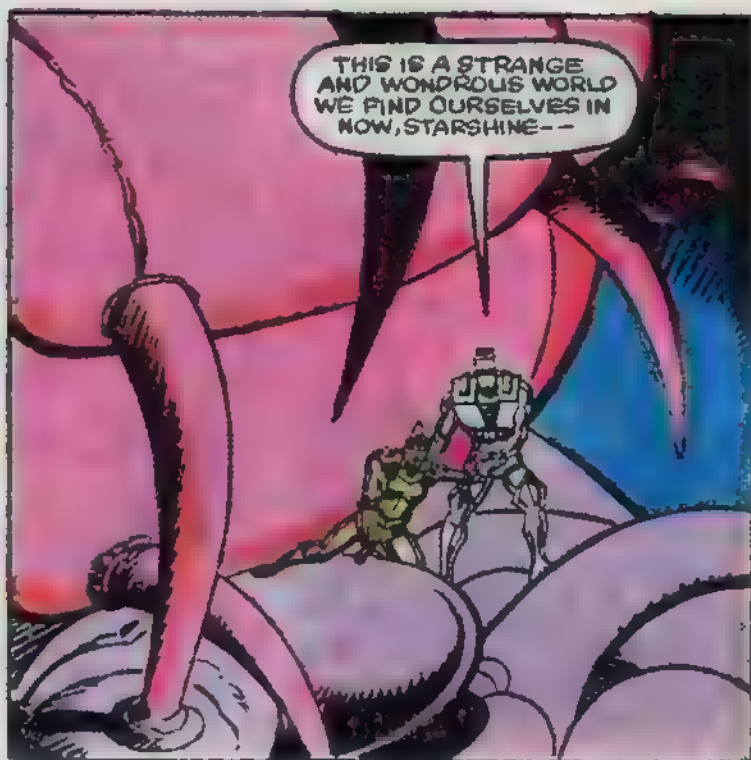
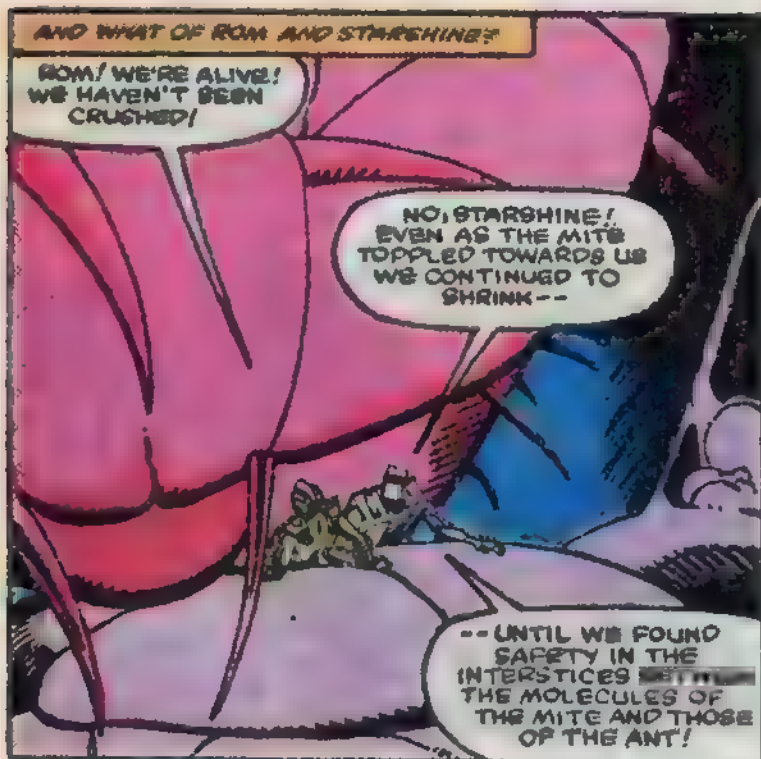
THIS IS WRAITH-HUNTER BASE REQUESTING A STATUS-REPORT!

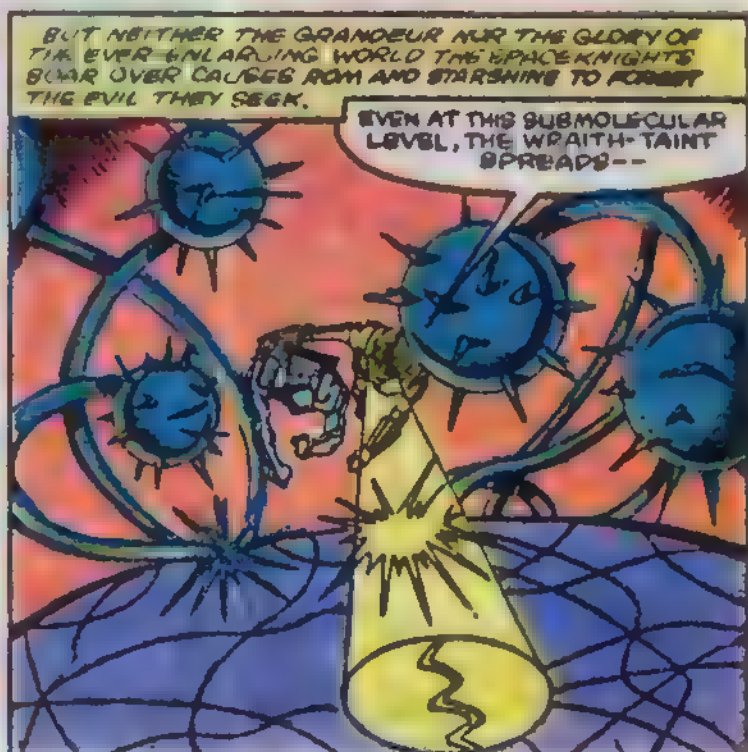
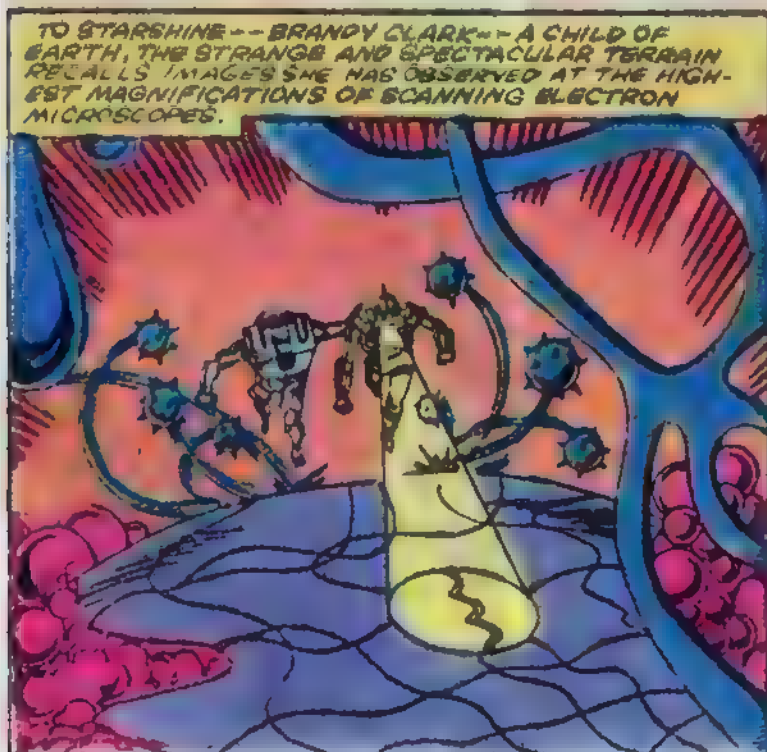
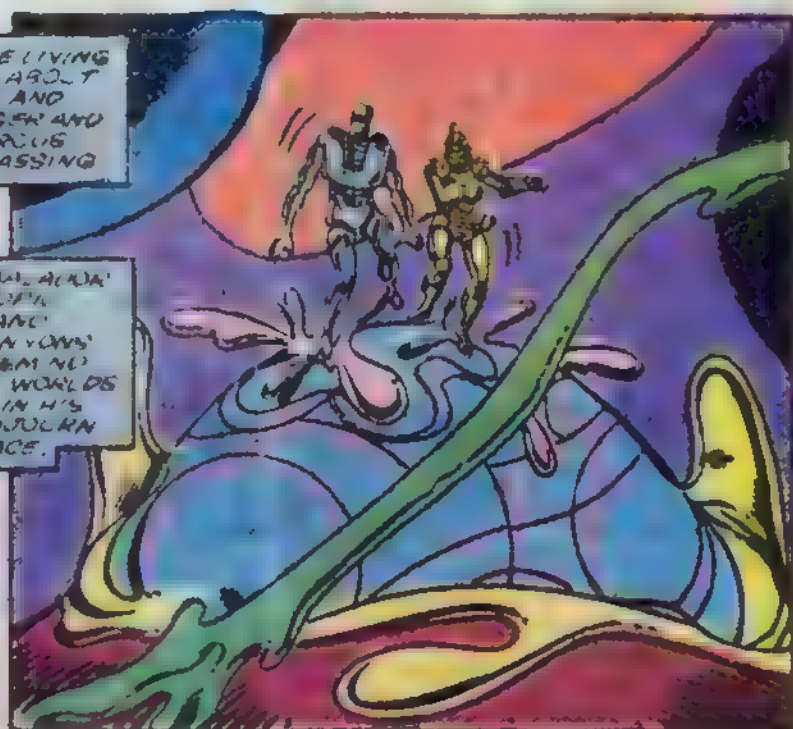
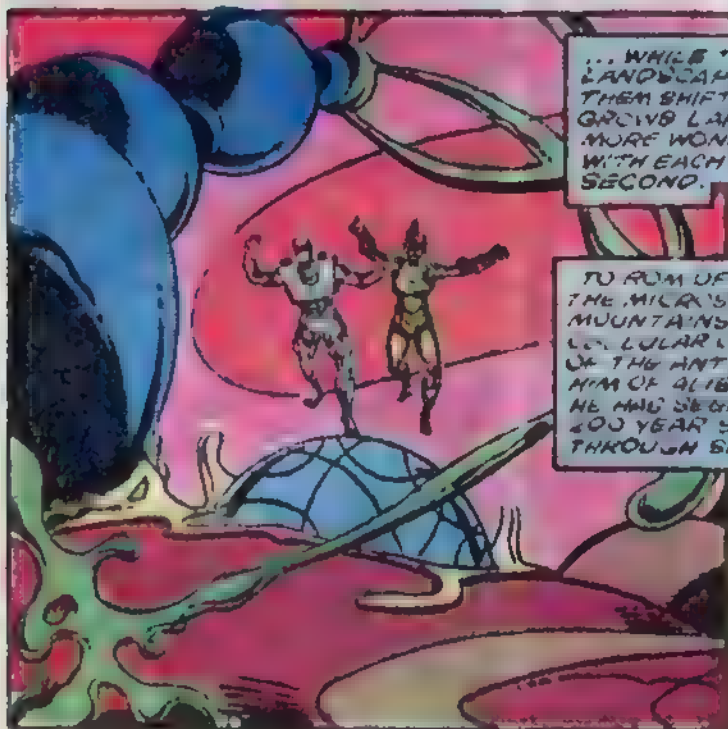
FROM ALL OVER CANADA, THEN, THE NEWS FLOODS IN...

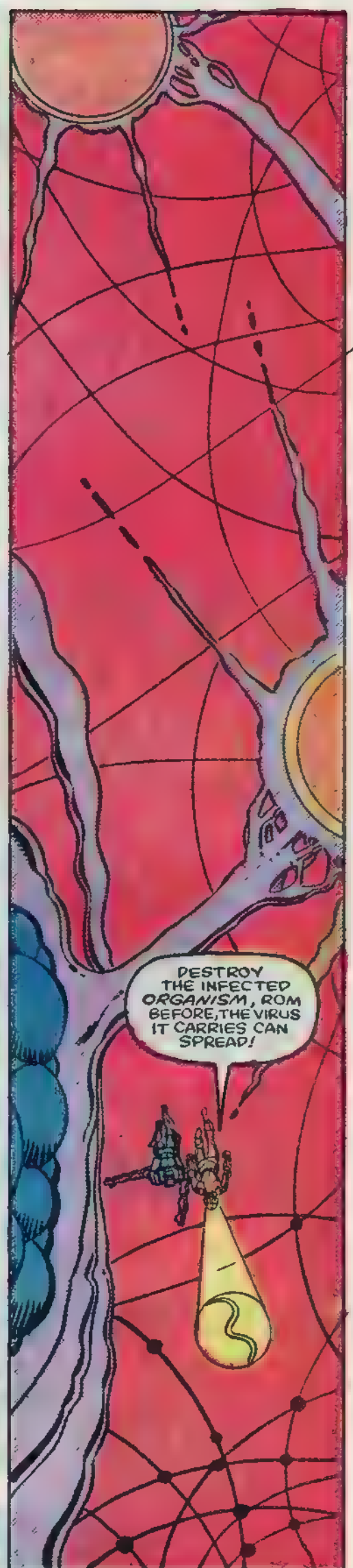
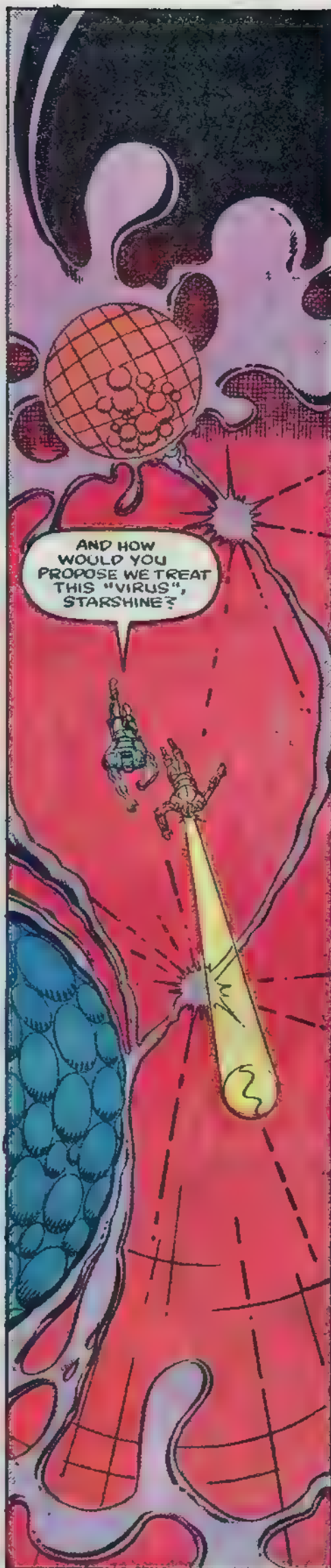
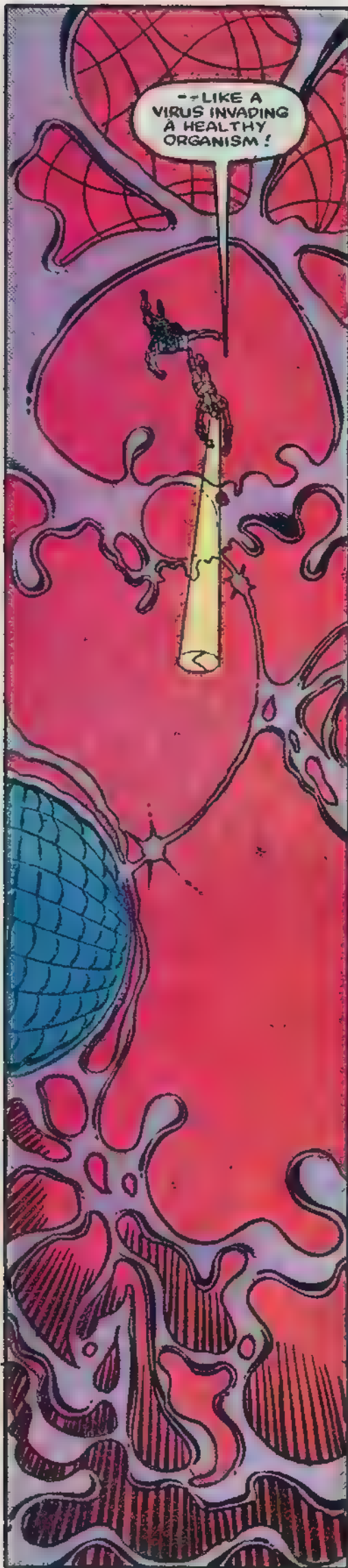


... OF HUMANITY BESIEGED BY LIFEFORMS FROM EVERY LINK OF THE ECOLOGICAL CHAIN TRANSFORMED INTO MONSTROUS AND MURDEROUS CREATURES INTENT UPON MANKIND'S DESTRUCTION.











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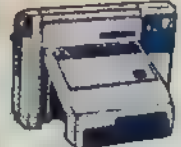
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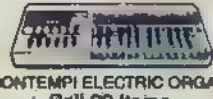
TASCO TELESCOPE
Sell 28 Items



KODAMATIC PARTYSTAR CAMERA
Sell 20 Items



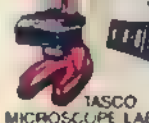
BOUNCE TRAMPOLINE
Sell 15 Items



BONTEMPI ELECTRIC ORGAN
Sell 22 Items



SPALDING BASKETBALL
Sell 14 Items



TASCO MICROSCOPE LAB
Sell 16 Items



CASIO CHRONO-ALARM WATCH
Sell 12 Items



WEBCOR ZIP TELEPHONE
Sell 13 Items



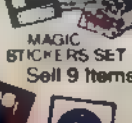
BACKPACKERS PLUSH TOY
Sell 13 Items



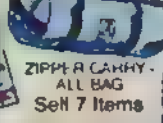
ACTION WALLETS
Sell 7 Items



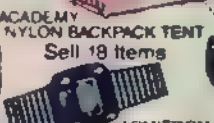
G.E. WALKIE-TALKIE SET WITH MORSE CODE
Sell 19 Items



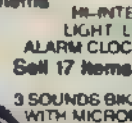
MAGIC STICKERS SET
Sell 9 Items



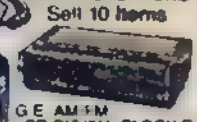
ZIPPER CARRY-ALL BAG
Sell 7 Items



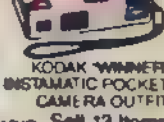
ACADEMY NYLON BACKPACK TENT
Sell 18 Items



HI-INTENSITY LIGHT LED ALARM CLOCK
Sell 17 Items



3 SOUNDS BIKE SIREN WITH MICROPHONE
Sell 10 Items



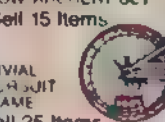
KODAK WINNER INSTAMATIC POCKET CAMERA OUTFIT
Sell 13 Items



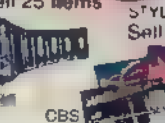
MAGNAVOX AM/FM STEREO CASSETTE RECORDER
Sell 51 Items



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Sell 10 Items



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Sell 15 Items



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Sell 25 Items



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Sell 75 Items



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Sell 19 Items



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Sell 13 Items



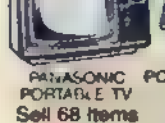
G.E. AC/DC 5" TV AM-FM RADIO
Sell 90 Items



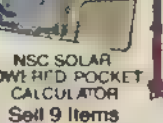
STEREO HEADSET RADIO
Sell 23 Items



CALLIGRAPHY MARKER SET
Sell 9 Items



3-IN-1 CHANGEABLE ROBOT
Sell 17 Items



NSC CALCULATOR CHRONO-ALARM WATCH
Sell 11 Items



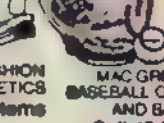
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Sell 7 Items



BIKE GENERATOR LIGHT SET
Sell 10 Items



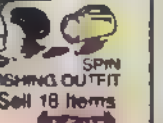
GIRLS LCD SPORT WATCH
Sell 14 Items



DUNGEONS & DRAGONS ADVENTURE GAME
Sell 9 Items



FROG PHONE
Sell 19 Items



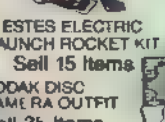
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Sell 12 Items



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Sell 68 Items



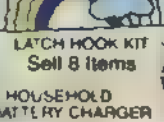
NSC SOLAR POWERED POCKET CALCULATOR
Sell 9 Items



ESTES ELECTRIC LAUNCH ROCKET KIT
Sell 15 Items



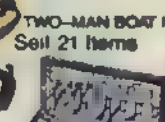
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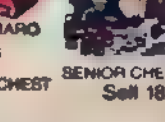
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Sell 10 Items



SENIOR CHEMISTRY LAB
Sell 18 Items



SWINGING DOLL
Sell 9 Items



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Sell 18 Items



TYCO 'CLIFF HANGERS' NITE GLOW RACE SET
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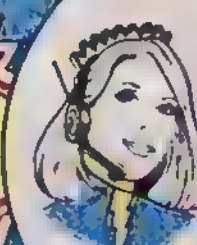
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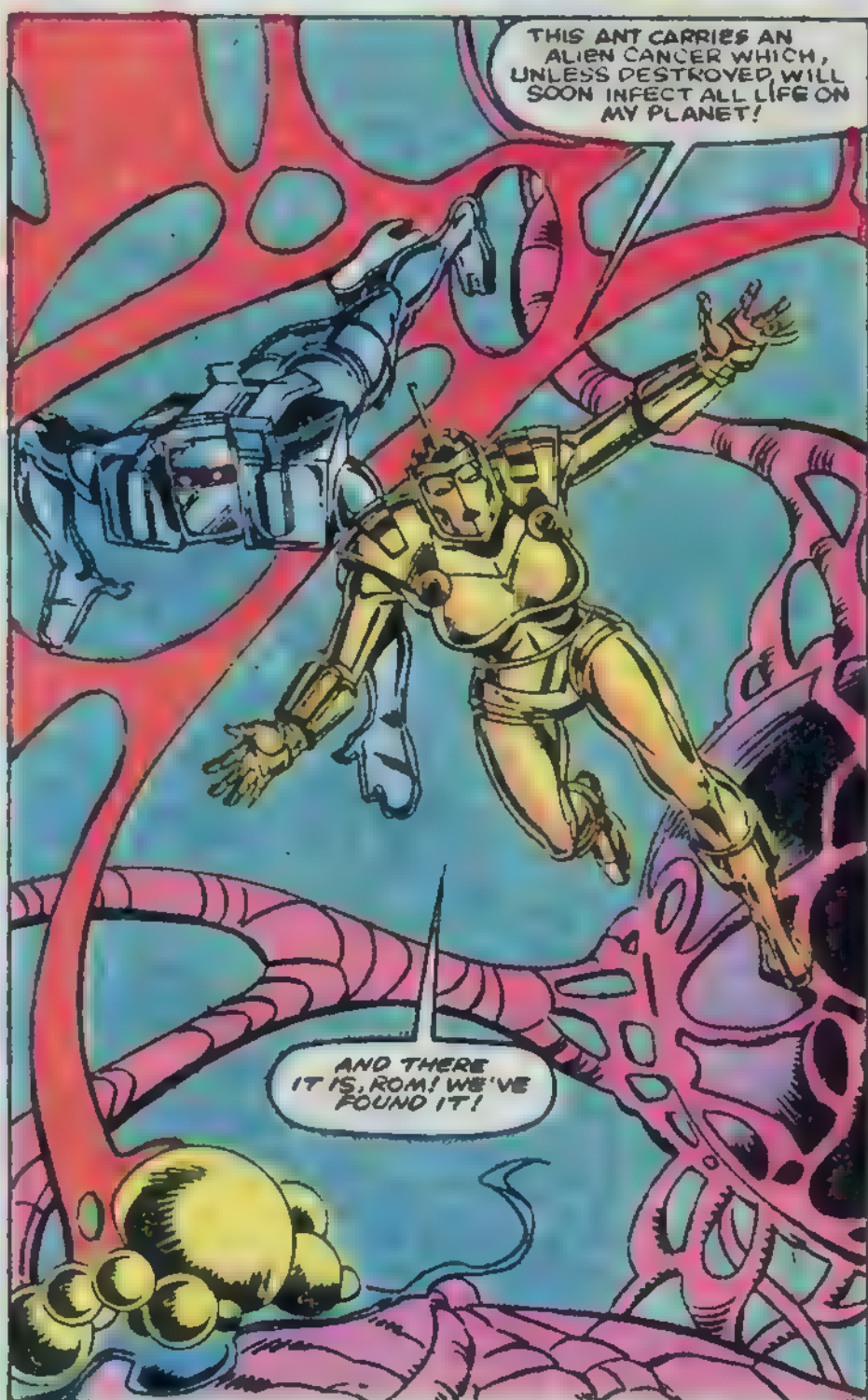
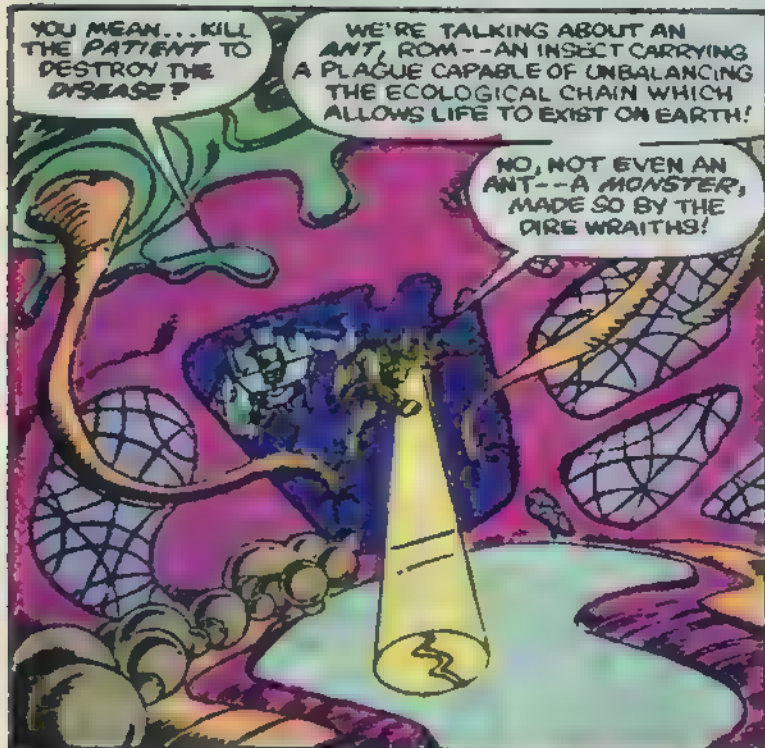
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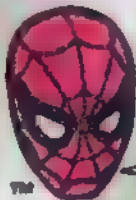
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EVERY LIVING THING
THE WRAITH'S
SPELL HAS STRUCK!

THE BLACK TWISTING EVIL HAS BOUND ITSELF TO THE SUBCELLULAR MATERIAL AT THE HEART OF THE ANT. THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT OF ITS ALIEN ORIGIN, OR OF ITS MYSTICAL MALICIOUSNESS. THE ONLY QUESTION FACING THE SILVER SPACEKNIGHT IS HOW TO DESTROY THE ELDRITCH INFECTION WITHOUT DESTROYING THE INSECT CARRIERS?!

HAVING AT LAST LOCATED THE SINISTER SOURCE OF THE EVIL THAT HER LIGHTEYES HAVE TRACKED, STARSHINE LOSES NOT A SECOND IN ATTACKING...

STARSHINE,
WAIT...!

WAIT, ROM? ARE YOU
MADE? THIS SORCEROUS
SLIME IS THE CAUSE OF
ALL THE HORROR WE HAVE
LIVED THROUGH SINCE THE
WRAITHS FIRST UNLEASHED
THE FLOOD.

DESTROY
IT, AND...!

THE WRAITH-TAINT REACTS TO STARSHINE'S ASSAULT
WITH A FURIOUS WRITHING WHICH SLAPS THE
STUNNED SPACEKNIGHT AWAY!

DESTROY THE WRAITH-TAINT
BOUND TO THIS ANT'S GENETIC
MATERIAL, STARSHINE, AND YOU
EITHER KILL OR CURE BUT ONE
SOLITARY INSECT--

-- LEAVING THE QUESTION OF HOW
TO CLEANSE THE COUNTLESS OTHER
LIFEFORMS AFFECTED BY ITS
EVIL UNSOLVED.

NO, SOME OTHER SOLUTION MUST BE
FOUND TO ERADICATE THE EVIL IN
EVERY INSECT AND ANIMAL
TOUCHED BY THE TAINT!

WHAT
OTHER
SOLUTION,
ROM?

I PREFER TO
FOLLOW YOUR ORIGINAL
SUGGESTION, STARSHINE,
AND TREAT THE WRAITH-TAINT
AS A VILE, ALIEN VIRUS INFECTING
OTHERWISE HEALTHY EARTHLY
ORGANISMS. A PHYSICIAN DOES
NOT ATTEMPT TO DESTROY
THE VIRUS MAKING HIS
PATIENTS ILL...

... HE INVIGORATES
HIS PATIENTS' OWN
IMMUNOLOGICAL
SYSTEM TO CREATE
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Figure 1

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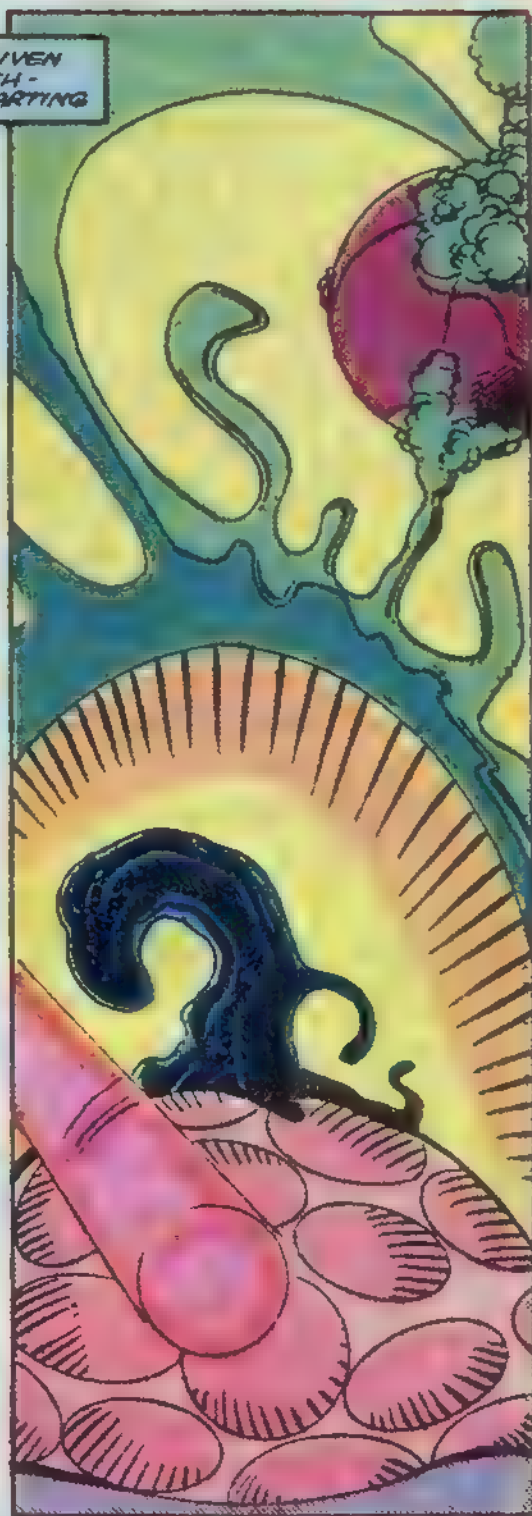
ANTIBODIES WITH THE
STRENGTH TO FIGHT OFF
THE INVADING VIRUS SO THAT
IT COULD TRULY BE SAID...
THAT THE PATIENTS CURE
THEMSELVES!



AS ROM'S NEUTRALIZER PLAYS OVER THE CELLULAR
MATERIAL OF THE INFECTED INSECT, THE ANT'S OWN
IMMUNE CAPABILITIES BEGIN TO REASSERT THEM -
SELVES...



ANTIBODIES FORM AND MULTIPLY AND-- GIVEN
THE STRENGTH TO COUNTERACT THE WRAITH-
TANT BY THE NEUTRALIZER'S ENERGY-IMPARTING
BEAM-- ATTACK!



Bullpen Bulletins

JIM STARLIN TRIED TO KILL ME!

In the very first issue of *Dreadstar*, a column I wrote was published, telling of a perilous trip by innertube down the rapids of the mighty Esopus river, conducted by Mr. James Starlin, during which I nearly lost my tube and might have drowned. Jim, I thought, kicked my tube back toward me at that critical moment, thereby saving me from a watery death, or at least embarrassment.

I was wrong.

The tube-kicking, it seems clear now, was an accident. Or, perhaps he meant to kick it away from me and simply through egregious, blundering incompetence mistakenly kicked it the "wrong" direction.

No matter. His true colors have, at last, been shown — and they bear, my friends, the well-known symbolic image of death... Mr. Yuck! Or something like that.

A month or so ago, Jim again lured me to his palatial country estate, this time for "a relaxing weekend of winter sport."

He took me snowmobiling. My first time.

Rocketing along mountain goat-trails completely out of control at sixty miles an hour — that, I didn't mind.

It was a little worrisome when Jim's co-conspirator, one Berni Wrightson, a highly skilled and experienced snowmobiler hurtled headlong off the trail and slaughtered a thicket of what one day would have been mighty oaks with his machine and his body.

What a mess.

Undaunted, trusting my "friend" Jim Starlin, I followed him onward, leaving Berni's corpse in the copse (or so we thought — later, it turned out, he survived. The copse was the only corpse).

Starlin led me at high speed to the very peak of Mt. Macho.

For a moment, we stopped, poised on the brink of a sheer cliff. Then, seeing a certain weird, evil gleam in his eyes, I said those three fatal, famous last words...

"You're not serious..."

Next thing I knew, I was plunging down a vertical cliff face, five hundred yards straight down, clinging to what might as well have been a large, hi-tech metal sculpture by Skidoo. I'm not going to say he pushed my machine over the precipice, because it all happened so fast — who can really be sure? But, I submit to you, that no sane individual would take that plunge unpushed, or of his own free will.

Which is why Starlin followed me over of his own free will, shrieking his "death laugh" (patent pending) like the hysterical, crazed maniac he is.

Of course, he merely followed to cover up his deed — to make it look as though we'd both just gotten foolishly, suicidally careless. He, no doubt, was counting on that uncanny invulnerability which protects raving lunatics to save his life!

Ah, but fate cheated him. He survived all right, but somehow, as I plummeted, feeling all the while like Wile E. Coyote, I maintained control — and, as the cliff curved out into rocky meadow, I was still in the saddle, facing (as Stan Lee often commanded) front. I rode it out, and made it down the mountain.

The whole experience was worth it — because now I know. I know!

Jim Starlin is a killer.

Now, at last, I understand *Dreadstar*.



Vanth *Dreadstar* vs. the Lord High Papal — to the death, of course! But, you'll never guess the ultimate outcome! Nothing will ever be the same again after "Resolution" in issue #14 of *Dreadstar*, on sale in early July at your local comics specialty store. Just \$1.50.

By the way, watch for our full-color video presentation! It brings you up to date on all that has gone before in the entire *Metamorphosis Odyssey-Dreadstar* series! And it includes a shocking interview with Berni Wrightson in regards to his absolutely magnificent *Frankenstein* illustrated novel! It's probably being shown at your local comics shop now! If it's not, demand it!

HYPE BOX

MACHINE MAN (Limited Series)

#1 — You think you're grouchy after oversleeping? Then check out Machine Man — he's been asleep for nearly 40 years, and is he fit to be tied! It's now the year 2020, but some things never change. For instance, Gears Garvin is still alive and kicking, and there's this second-generation super hero running around who looks awfully familiar! Who is he? Why did Machine Man sleep so long? And will he remember to set his alarm clock properly next time? For the answers to these and other vital questions of our day, be sure to read *He Lives Again*, written by TOM DEFALCO, with lay-outs by HERB TRIMPE and finishes by BARRY WINDSOR-SMITH!

MICRONAUTS: THE NEW VOYAGES

#1 — Who are the Makers, anyway? That's what the Micronauts want to know. Suffice it to say, though, that when the Makers finally do reveal themselves the Microverse will never be the same again! This is the book that was so popular in comics shops that we couldn't keep it a secret from the newsstands — so it's available there now, too! "Shadow of the Makers" is written by PETER B. GILLIS, penciled by KELLEY JONES, inked by BRUCE PATTERSON... and it's got a special, painted cover by original Micronauts artist MICHAEL GOLDEN!

DOCTOR WHO #1 — He's a slightly eccentric, jelly-bean eating time-traveler — and now he's got his own monthly Marvel comic! He's Doctor Who, of course, and if you want to find out why his British TV show is the longest running in BBC history... read this comic! This issue features the beginning of the *Star-beast* story, written by MILLS & WAGNER and illustrated by DAVE GIBBONS, plus "Return of the Daleks," written by STEVE MOORE and illustrated by PAUL NEARY and DAVID LLOYD — plus an article on the history of Doctor Who illustrated by Thor artist WALT SIMONSON! And it's printed on Baxter paper, to boot!

CHECK LIST

- ☐ THE THING #16
- ☐ DAREDEVIL #211
- ☐ NEW MUTANTS #20
- ☐ DAZZLER #34
- ☐ KA-ZAR #34 — What happens to a comic book character when his book is cancelled? Well, you can find out here... 'cause this is the last issue of Ka-Zar.
- ☐ MARVEL SUPER HEROES SECRET WARS (Limited Series) #6
- ☐ WEST COAST AVENGERS (Limited Series) #2
- ☐ MACHINE MAN (Limited Series) #1 — Machine Man in the year 2020! See Hype Box.
- ☐ THE MUPPETS #1, 2 & 3 — Featuring the Marvel adaptation of the new movie "The Muppets Take Manhattan." three-pack.
- ☐ MARVEL TEAM-UP ANNUAL #7
- ☐ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #257 — The secret of Spidey's new costume revealed!
- ☐ CAPTAIN AMERICA #296
- ☐ THOR #348
- ☐ INDIANA JONES #22
- ☐ POWER PACK #3
- ☐ MICRONAUTS: THE NEW VOYAGES #1 — Now available on newsstands! See Hype Box.
- ☐ DOCTOR STRANGE #67

- ☐ U.S. 1 (Limited Series) #12
- ☐ THE LAST STAR FIGHTER (Limited Series) #1, 2 & 3 — The world's greatest video game player is appointed savior of the universe! Really! Adapted from the new movie.
- ☐ SUB-MARINER (Limited Series) #2
- ☐ IRON MAN ANNUAL #7
- ☐ AVENGERS #248
- ☐ CONAN THE BARBARIAN #163
- ☐ MARVEL TALES #168 — Never before reprinted... until now! "Never Step on A Scorpion," by Stan Lee and Steve Ditko, first presented in *Amazing Spider-Man* #29!
- ☐ ROM #59
- ☐ POWER MAN/IRON FIST #110
- ☐ G.I. JOE #28
- ☐ KULL THE CONQUEROR #6 — Now bi-monthly!
- ☐ TEMPLE OF DOOM (Limited Series) #2 — Marvel's official adaptation of the new Indiana Jones movie.
- ☐ INCREDIBLE HULK #300 — Double-size spectacular!
- ☐ X-MEN #186 — Illustrated by guest-artists Barry Windsor-Smith and Terry Austin!
- ☐ FANTASTIC FOUR #271
- ☐ MARVEL TEAM-UP #146 — Featuring Spider-Man and Nomad.

- ☐ IRON MAN #187
- ☐ PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #95
- ☐ DEFENDERS #136
- ☐ STAR WARS #88
- ☐ ALPHA FLIGHT #15
- ☐ WHAT IF #47 — "What If Loki Had Found Thor's Hammer?"
- ☐ DOCTOR WHO #1 — The star of the most popular TV show in Britain gets his own Marvel comic! See Hype Box.

MARVEL MAGAZINES

- ☐ SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #104
- ☐ MARVEL AGE #19

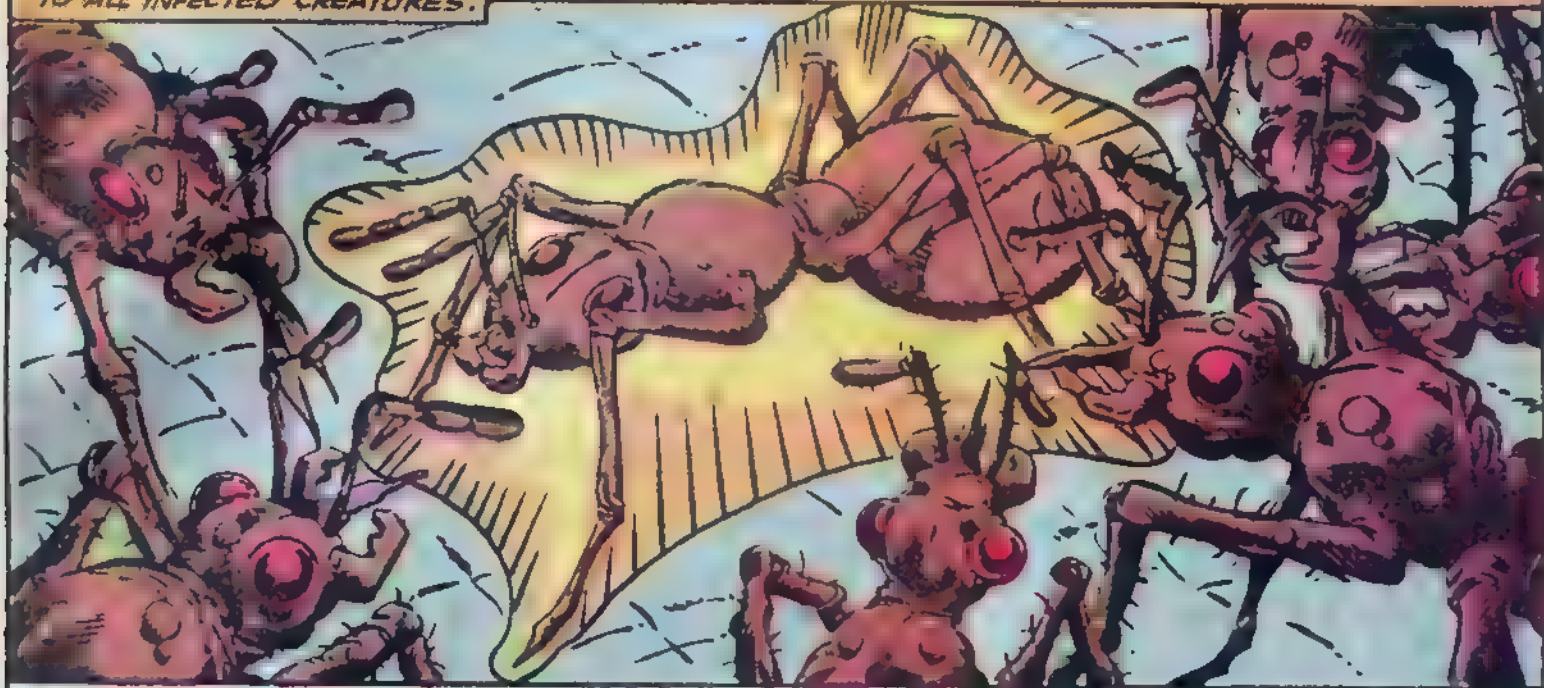
EPIC COMICS

- ☐ ALIEN LEGION #3
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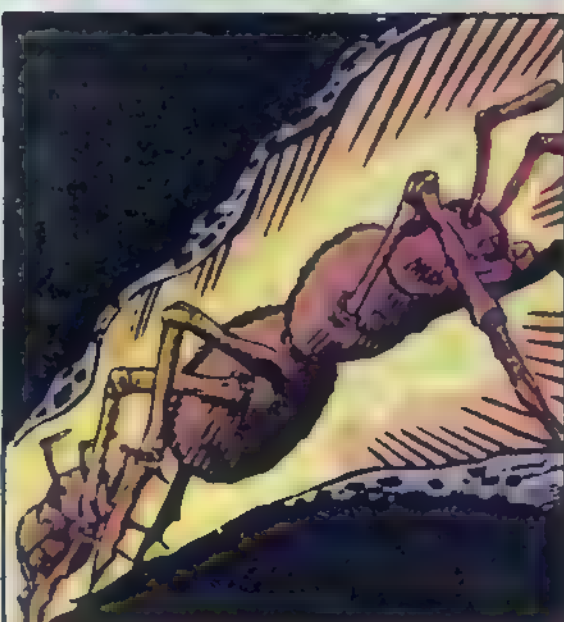
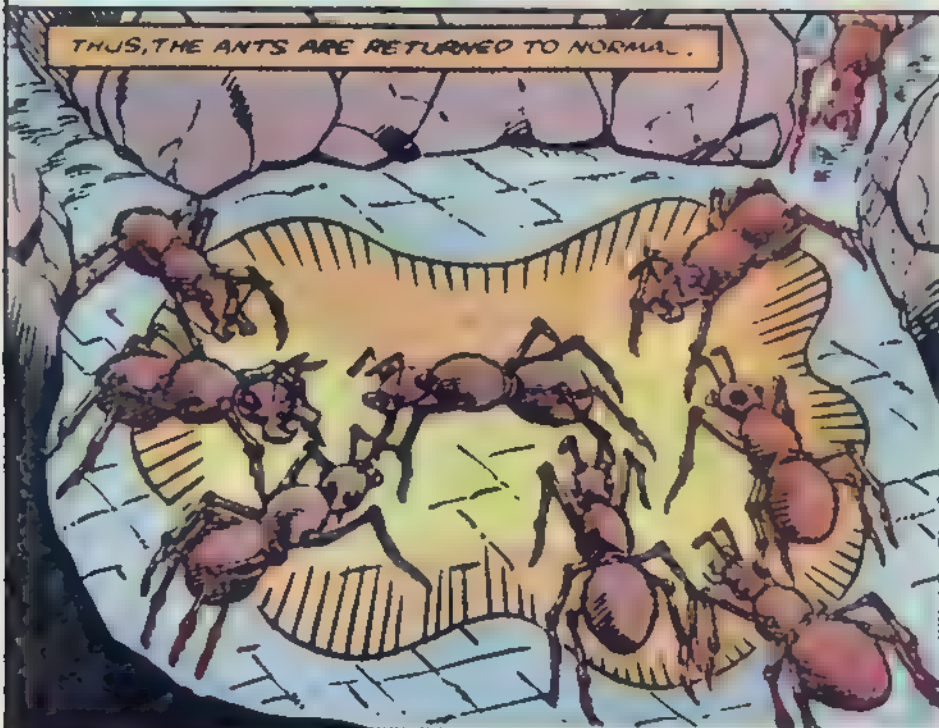
ASSORTED GOODIES

- ☐ SUPERSPECTOR #32: THE MUPPETS TAKE MANHATTAN — The complete adaptation of the new Muppet movie!
- ☐ GRAPHIC NOVEL #11: DAZZLER: THE MOVIE — The Dazzler's mutant powers are revealed to the world! Written by JIM SHOOTER, penciled by FRANK SPRINGER and inked by VINCE COLLETTA!

ALTHOUGH STILL MYSTICALLY SPREADING VIRUS-LIKE, THE WRAITH-TAINT BECOMES ALTERED BY ROM'S NEUTRALIZER BEAM SO THAT IT CARRIES NOT EVIL, BUT A HEALING, RESTORATIVE CHANGE AS IT FLOWS TO ALL INFECTED CREATURES.



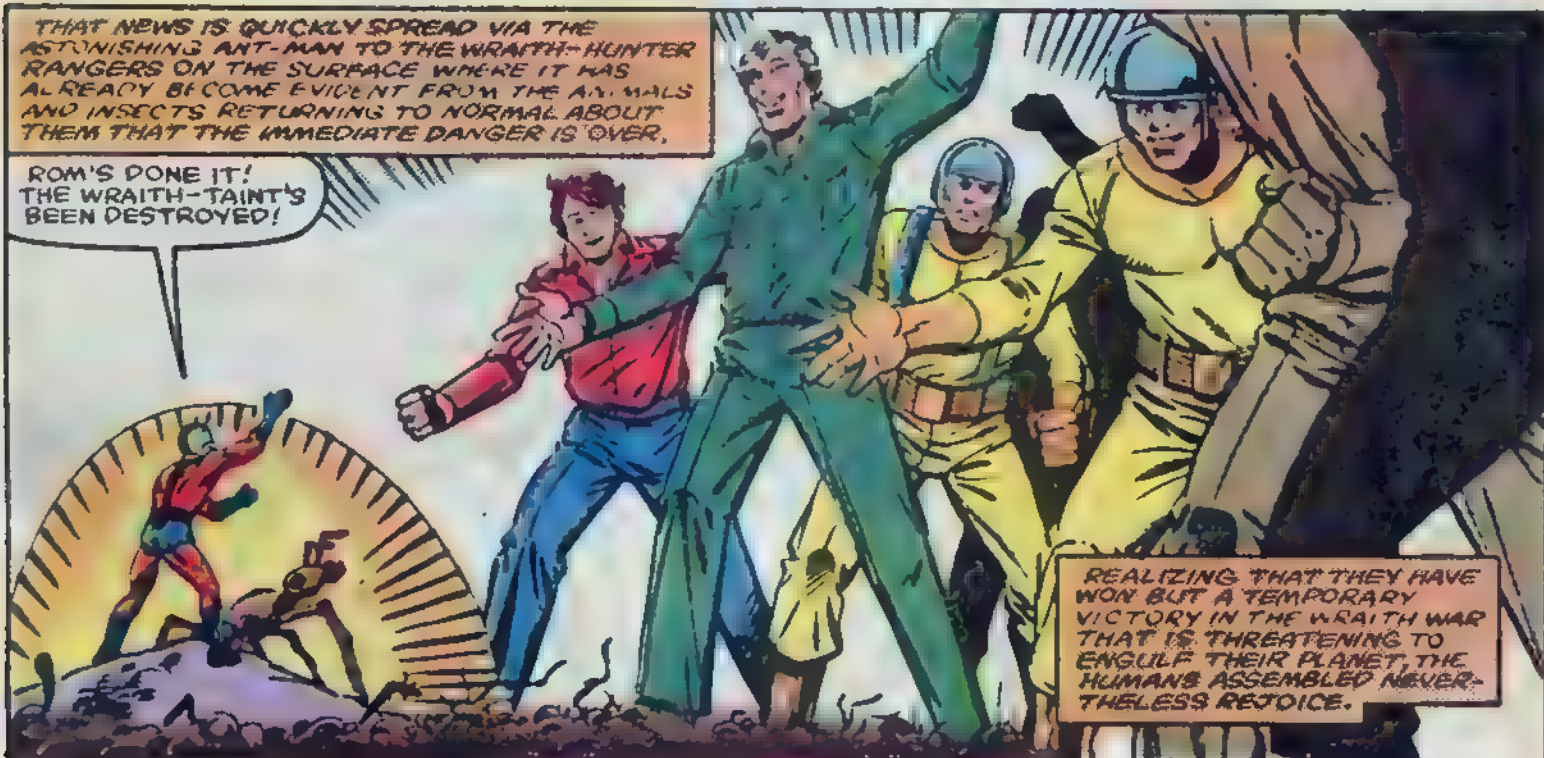
THUS, THE ANTS ARE RETURNED TO NORMAL.



IMMUNIZED AGAINST FUTURE WRAITH ATTEMPTS TO TRANSFORM THEM FROM WITHIN THEY RETURN TO THEIR PEACEFUL PURSUITS.

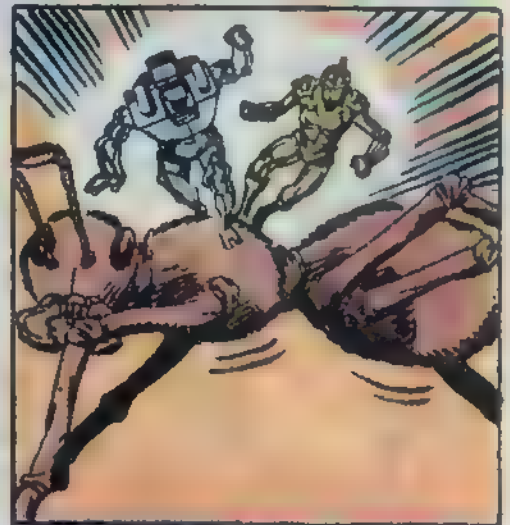
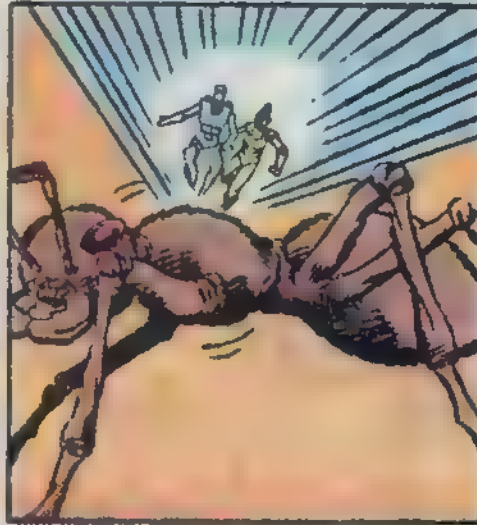
THAT NEWS IS QUICKLY SPREAD VIA THE ASTONISHING ANT-MAN TO THE WRAITH-HUNTER RANGERS ON THE SURFACE WHERE IT HAS ALREADY BECOME EVIDENT FROM THE ANIMALS AND INSECTS RETURNING TO NORMAL ABOUT THEM THAT THE IMMEDIATE DANGER IS OVER.

ROM'S DONE IT!
THE WRAITH-TAINT'S
BEEN DESTROYED!



REALIZING THAT THEY HAVE WON BUT A TEMPORARY VICTORY IN THE WRAITH WAR THAT IS THREATENING TO ENGULF THEIR PLANET, THE HUMANS ASSEMBLED NEVER- THELESS REJOICE.

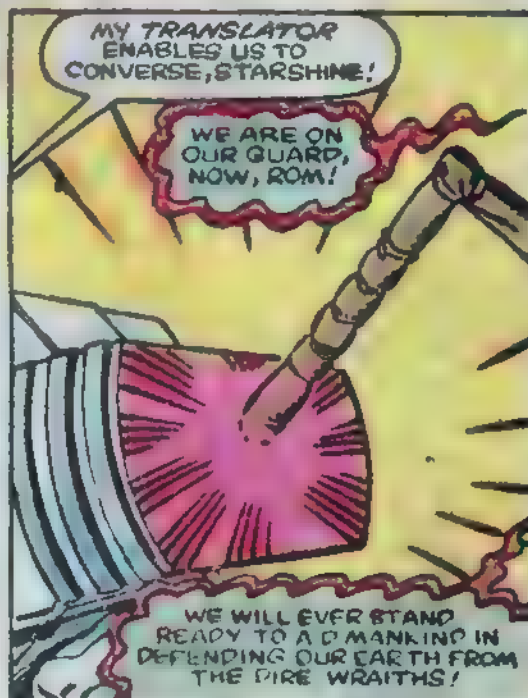
THE REJOICING IS ECHOED IN THE ANT-HILL WHERE ROM AND STARSHINE, WHO'VE MENTALLY REMOVED THE SHRINKING GAS FROM THEIR ARMOR -- THUS REVERSING ITS EFFECTS FOREVER -- ADDRESS THE INSECTS.



YOU DESTROYED
THE EVIL WITHIN
US, SPACEKNIGHT--

--AND MADE
US WHOLE
ONCE AGAIN!

ROM, I
CAN HEAR
THE ANTS
THANKING
US!



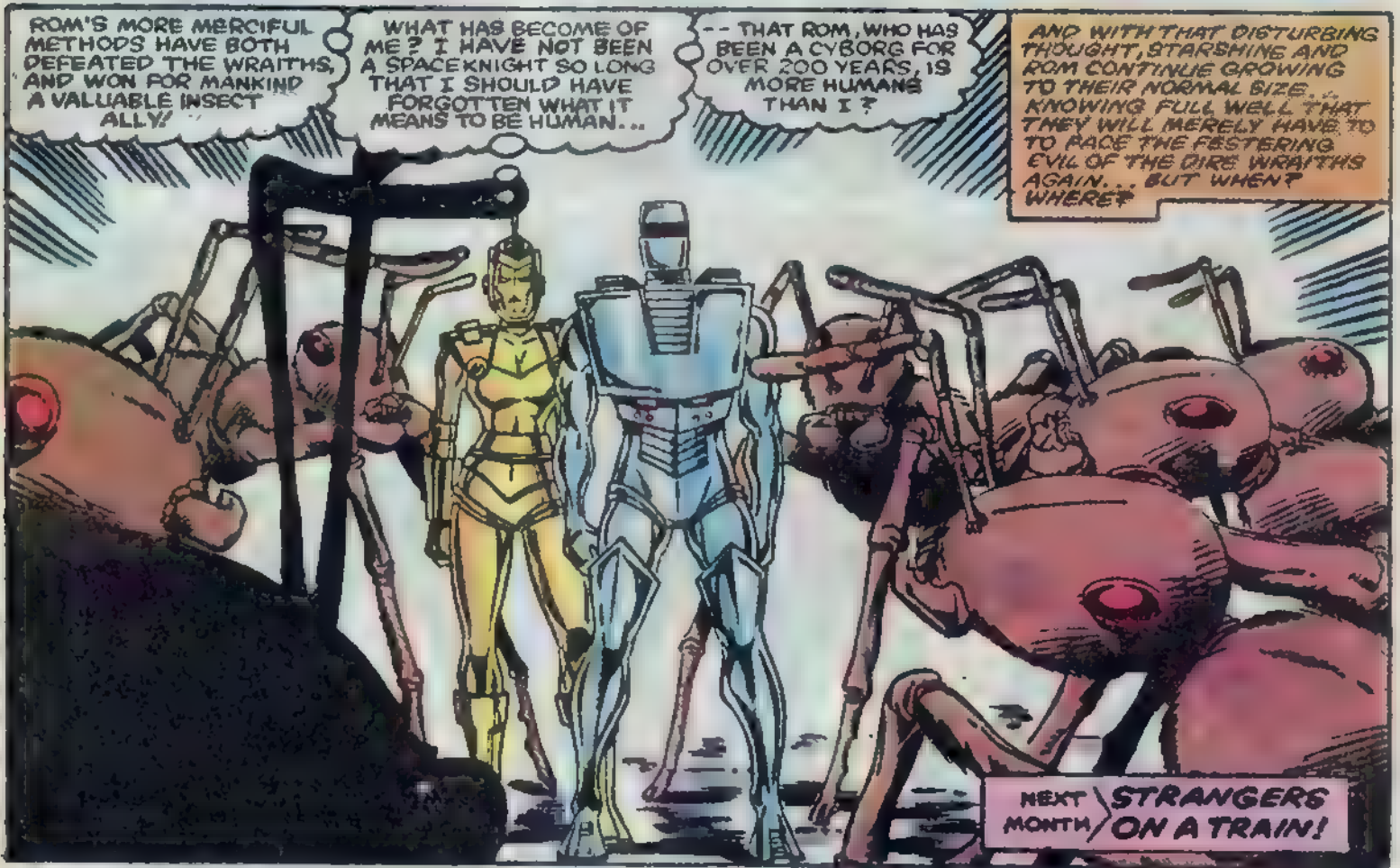
MY TRANSLATOR
ENABLES US TO
CONVERSE, STARSHINE!

WE ARE ON
OUR GUARD,
NOW, ROM!

WE WILL EVER STAND
READY TO AID MANKIND IN
DEFENDING OUR EARTH FROM
THE DIRE WRAITHS!



IN ORDER TO DESTROY THE
WRAITH-TAINT, I WOULD
HAVE DESTROYED THESE
ANTS!



ROM'S MORE MERCIFUL
METHODS HAVE BOTH
DEFEATED THE WRAITHS,
AND WON FOR MANKIND
A VALUABLE INSECT
ALLY!

WHAT HAS BECOME OF
ME? I HAVE NOT BEEN
A SPACEKNIGHT SO LONG
THAT I SHOULD HAVE
FORGOTTEN WHAT IT
MEANS TO BE HUMAN...

-- THAT ROM, WHO HAS
BEEN A CYBORG FOR
OVER 200 YEARS, IS
MORE HUMAN
THAN I?

AND WITH THAT DISTURBING
THOUGHT, STARSHINE AND
ROM CONTINUE GROWING
TO THEIR NORMAL SIZE.
KNOWING FULL WELL THAT
THEY WILL MERELY HAVE TO
TO FACE THE FESTERING
EVIL OF THE DIRE WRAITHS
AGAIN... BUT WHEN?
WHERE?

NEXT MONTH / STRANGERS
ON A TRAIN!

SPACE NOTES

MICHAEL CARLIN: editor-MICHAEL HIGGINS: assistant editor
***MARVEL COMICS GROUP-387 Park Avenue South-New York, New York-10016**
 Attention correspondents: if you don't want your full address printed, please be sure to tell us so!

HELLO, GOOD EVENING AND WELCOME TO THIS, THE EDITING DEBUT OF ME -- LITTLE MIKE CARLIN!! BY NOW YOU'VE FINISHED READING THE STORY PORTION OF THIS ISSUE... (UNLESS YOU'RE THE LETTERS-PAGE-FIRST TYPE, LIKE M'SELF)... SO I'D APPRECIATE A NOTE OR A POST CARD TELLIN' ME WHAT YOU LIKED -- OR DIDN'T LIKE -- ABOUT ROM #52. TOGETHER WITH MY TRUSTY SIDE-KICK -- LITTLE MIKE HIGGINS -- REGULAR ROM-WRITER BILL MANTLO AND 'THE LEGENDARY STEVE DITKO WE'VE LINED UP SOME POWERFUL STUFF FOR ROM AND STARSHINE TO CONFRONT IN THE NEAR FUTURE!! WE'VE ALSO TAPPED SOME OF MARVEL'S OTHER BLOCKBUSTER TALENTS AND WE'VE GOT LOADS OF NIFTY ROM-ORIENTED ART HEADLINS' YOUR WAY! (SOME OF THE ABOVE-MENTIONED TALENTS ARE: PAUL SMITH [THIS ISSUE'S COVER], TERRY AUSTIN, DAVID MAZZUCHELLI, BOB LAYTON [THIS ISSUE'S INKS], WILLIAM JOHNSON, BUTCH GUICE, TOM PALMER, BILL SIENKIEWICZ, AND MANNY MOORE!) SO, NOW, WITHOUT ANY FURTHER ADOU, LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT WHAT YOU GUYS AND GALS THOUGHT OF ROM #52 AND #53... SEE YA Mike 

one of the best blends of story and art around!

Ted Nolan
Columbia, SC

Ted, you wouldn't believe how many people are asking about the Sci-Wraith, and since this is a state of "Total War" anything can happen!

Dear People,

ROM #53 was excellent, but I have to tell you, the best part was the Wraith attack on the Shield hell-carrier! How about a Limited Series for Nick Fury?

I'm glad to see the nations of Earth united for the first time but I hope they don't just join forces with the Super Heroes to defeat the Wraiths in a few weeks. A war lasts a long time and I imagine it would be particularly difficult to battle a foe who could change shape at will. Remember, the Spaceknights have been around for over 200 years and still the war goes on! Try to use the Wraiths in other books like DAREDEVIL or the HULK.

Since America has so many Super Heroes, Rom should consider going to other lands. For instance, he could go to England and form a Wraith Brigade consisting of Captain Britain, Union Jack, and the Black Knight, while Starshine could do the same with Sabra and her fellow agents in Israel. You could even have Rick Jones, Johnny Blaze, and Richard Ryder appear as Captain Universe. I'd like to see some villains volunteer to help battle the Wraiths. Men of influence, like the Kingpin or the Hellfire Club, who would recognize their stake in the war, and act on it.

Peter Garcia
Puerto Rico

Anything's possible, Peter. Keep watching. In addition, you should be happy to hear that there is indeed a NICK FURY Limited Series in the works! It will be in the stores later this year and it involves S.H.I.E.L.D. in a role you wouldn't expect. Watch for it!

As for Rom going to different countries and meeting other heroes... what did you think of ROM #s 56 & 57 set in Canada and featuring Alpha Flight as a start?

Dear Editor,

I am writing to thank you for ROM #53. For the first time, you have portrayed President Reagan as a man capable of intelligence, dignity, courage and leadership, as opposed to the semi-senile, dozing, ignorant buffoon he is usually made out to be in comics. I express my gratitude not because I am a fanatical Reagan supporter -- in fact, I disagree with him more often than not. However, it's important to be reminded that those we disagree with are not always stupid, evil, or both. By the same token, no one has goodness and grace always on their side.

However much one may disagree with President Reagan's policies or disdain his background, and no matter how cynical one may be of our political system, it is a fact

that no one can become President of the United States without having some qualities that could be considered virtues. No one is totally a creation of the media, nor a puppet of the so-called "powers that be." There comes a time when cynicism is as absurd as naivete.

Marvel was the first to create villains who were not always purely evil. Of course, as in real life, some were just plain greedy and vicious, but others, like Magneto and Hyperion had reasons you could understand, even if you couldn't agree with them. With the Dire Wraiths, you have now given us bad guys who are bad in every sense of the word. But you have also given us military officers who are noble and admirable, and a respectful view of our nation's leader. Perhaps, even more than you yourselves realized, you've made the first step toward the unification process that would be needed if such a dangerous international menace truly existed!

I do not agree with much of the philosophy propagated in the Marvel Universe, but that universe is your creation and you have the right to your opinions. I am grateful, however, that you have given a long overdue sign of recognition that those of us who disagree are not all bad people.

Patrick B. Milano
Montgomery, AL

As you yourself stated, Patrick, you do not always have to agree with our characters' beliefs to understand them and their actions. As long as our characters and our readers stay true to themselves there will always be differences of opinion and different points of view!

THIS JUST IN...

ITEM: If you've ever wondered just how your favorite Marvel Character might handle a given crisis situation, we strongly urge you to take a look at the twelve-issue limited series MARVEL SUPER HEROES: SECRET WARS! It is THE definitive chronicle of what happened several months back when most of Marvel's mightiest heroes vanished from the face of the Earth! Here is your chance to discover the answers to all the questions you have concerning Marvel's most important characters... Is Galactus hero or villain? Does the Wasp really like Magneto? Does Spider-Man's new costume really like him? This is the series that's shaking the very foundations of the Marvel Universe, and it's being reported by Marvel's editor in chief Jim Shooter himself -- who, let's face it, is the ultimate authority on the Marvel Universe and everyone in it -- so you know it's the final word in comic action! 'Nuff said!

NEXT ISSUE: Find out what the Dire Wraith's current -- and most desperate -- plan for the downfall of Earth is... as Rom and Starshine, too, learn the secret of "Worldmerge" through "The Eyes of a Child" in ROM #60 -- brought to you by Bill Mantlo, Steve Ditko and Tom Palmer!!

Dear Marvel,

I've just finished reading ROM #52, "Total War," and I was devastated! It has to be one of the most moving comic books I've ever read! I follow many of your comics, from DAREDEVIL to X-MEN, but I have never been so shocked by one comic book in all my life! The scene of the 20 foot pile of dead townspeople really blew me away!

I must also comment on the scene where Starshine held that Wraith and blew it away point blank!! Let's put it this way -- some people scream at sporting events, some people scream at each other, but after that scene I screamed in awe at the sheer impact! Keep up the great work, Marvel!!

Wayne Koh
Jamaica, NY

Dear Mr. Mantlo & Co.,

I have just read and enjoyed ROM #52, and now that the Wraith War has progressed to this point I have a suggestion to make. I realize you've probably already considered this, but there is one entity on Earth whose help would be invaluable in winning the Wraith War... if Rom could secure it! I'm talking about the Wraith who chose humanity in the back-up story of ROM #25. I've always thought it was a pity that this story was never followed up on, and this would be a perfect opportunity to do so!

The Wraith's first-hand experience with his own kind could be crucial in understanding Witch Wraith strategy and cooperation with Rom would be in his own self-interest. After all, being the only Sci-Wraith on a Witch Wraith controlled world is a rather tenuous position!

Whatever you decide, though, I'm sure will be well executed. ROM continues to be

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- ☐ DEFENDERS
- ☐ DR. STRANGE
- ☐ FANTASTIC FOUR
- ☐ G.I. JOE
- ☐ INCREDIBLE HULK
- ☐ INDIANA JONES
- ☐ IRON MAN
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- ☐ MARVEL TEAM-UP
- ☐ MICRONAUTS
- ☐ MOON KNIGHT
- ☐ NEW MUTANTS

- ☐ PETER PARKER
- ☐ POWER MAN / IRON FIST
- ☐ POWER PACK
- ☐ RED SONJA
- ☐ ROM
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